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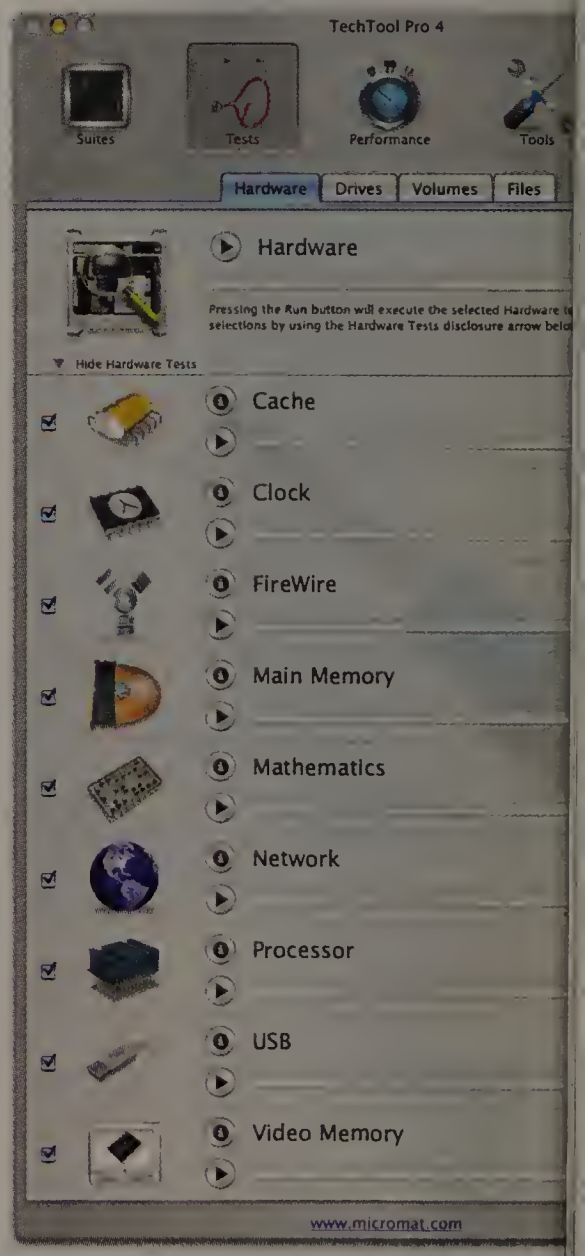


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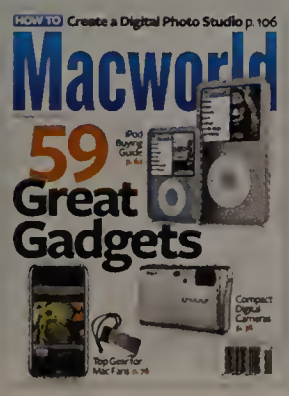
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iPhone photograph courtesy of GelaSkins; all other photography by Peter Belanger

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iPhone Superguide
For iPhone tips, check out our *Macworld iPhone Superguide* (macworld.com/3038), and stay in touch with our iPhone Central blog (iphone.macworld.com).



MACWORLD.COM'S TOP 5

The top 5 stories on Macworld.com are:

1 **Apple Event—Live Coverage**
Here's our blow-by-blow update of Apple's revamped iPods and iPhone price cut (macworld.com/3117).

2 **The Stage Is Set for Apple's Event**
Check out our preview of Apple's September 2007 special event (macworld.com/3118).

3 **iPhone Unlockers Lining Up**
iPhone hacks make it possible to skirt AT&T contract requirements (macworld.com/3119).

4 **Apple Plans Special Event on September 5**
Did we mention that Apple special event (macworld.com/3120)?

5 **AirPort Extreme Base Station with Gigabit Ethernet**
Apple unveils a speedier, much-improved Base Station (macworld.com/3109).

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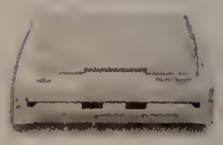


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The Company You Keep

Why Apple isn't solely responsible for its recent missteps

Apple is no stranger to criticism. For years many columnists and analysts have bashed the company for failings both real and imagined. But recently, the criticism has been coming from many writers and users who usually defend Apple.

Ringing or Screaming?

Take ringtones. When the iPhone was first released, Steve Jobs called it "the best iPod we've ever made." But initially it wouldn't let you use songs in your iTunes library as ringtones.

Predictably, within a month or two of the iPhone's release, a few enterprising folks had created programs that would let you add your own sound files to the iPhone as ringtones. Then Apple itself seemed to get onboard, announcing that iTunes 7.4 would allow you to turn songs into iPhone ringtones.

But there was a catch: you could create ringtones only from certain songs bought on the iTunes Store, and even then you'd have to pay 99 cents a pop on top of the song's purchase price. To make matters worse, Apple released an iPhone software update that, according to the developers of those third-party iPhone ringtone utilities, purposely (albeit temporarily) broke their products.

Let's not put too fine a point on it: the entire iPhone-ringtone issue represents one of the most consumer-unfriendly actions Apple has ever taken. For a company that has carefully (and brilliantly) walked the line between consumer freedom and the piracy paranoia of the record companies, the sequence of events was breathtaking—and worrying.

What's troubling is not just that I'm stuck using "Old Phone" as my iPhone ring instead of, say, my daughter's laughter. It's that Apple's moves seemed arbitrarily contrary to the interests of its customers. It's as if the company had abolished iTunes support for MP3s or prevented iPods from playing videos not purchased from iTunes.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER



Recently, criticism has been coming from writers and users who usually defend Apple.

But I don't think Steve Jobs has traded in his black turtleneck for a Darth Vader mask. Ever since it launched iTunes, Apple has been forced to balance the interests of its customers and those of the record companies. And with the iPhone, Apple is contractually bound to another corporate entity—AT&T, its exclusive wireless carrier. It seems pretty evident to me that either the record companies, or AT&T, or both have demanded that Apple not let iPhone customers use their own sound files as ringtones. Why? I imagine it has something to do with creating a controlled market that they can milk for as much revenue as possible.

The iPhone's Future

Breaking ringtone programs wasn't the most controversial thing that the iPhone software update 1.1.1 did. It also introduced a locked-down security system that killed third-party iPhone software.

With this update, Apple was disabling phones whose owners had hacked them to accept SIM cards from networks other than AT&T's. Before releasing it, Apple issued a public statement that it could damage SIM-unlocked phones. Those people who updated despite the warning screamed bloody murder.

But the same security system that turned SIM-unlocked iPhones into shiny black bricks also temporarily closed off the ability to run third-party iPhone programs. Was the iPhone software update the company's attempt to lock out programmers from developing full-blown, native iPhone programs?

I don't think so. I believe the day will come when Apple will allow developers to write software for the iPhone, but right now the company is too distracted to figure all that out. After racing to release the iPhone, the company has had to turn to putting the finishing touches on Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). Once Leopard arrives (and it should be on store shelves by the time you read this or very shortly thereafter), it will be interesting to see where Apple turns its focus next.

The iPhone could really benefit from the participation of outside programmers. Even the rudimentary iPhone hacks written this summer showed just how much cooler it could be with add-on programs. Why should Apple have to shoulder the burden of programming for the iPhone all by itself?

As with the Mac, a community of talented developers stands ready and willing to make the iPhone even more appealing and versatile than it is already. I hope they're given the chance—and well before the iPhone reaches its first birthday.

What are your favorite products of the year? Vote in our annual Readers' Choice Awards by visiting macworld.com/3145.

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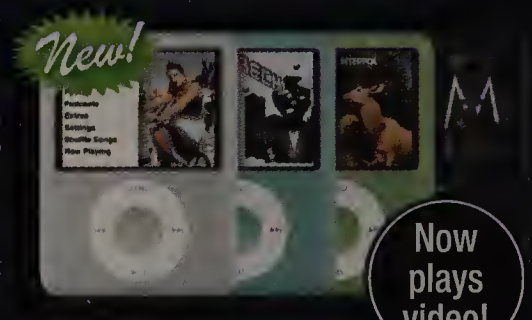
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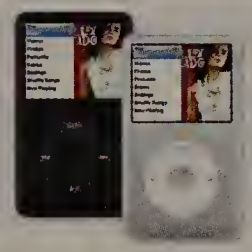
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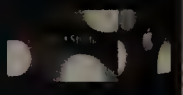
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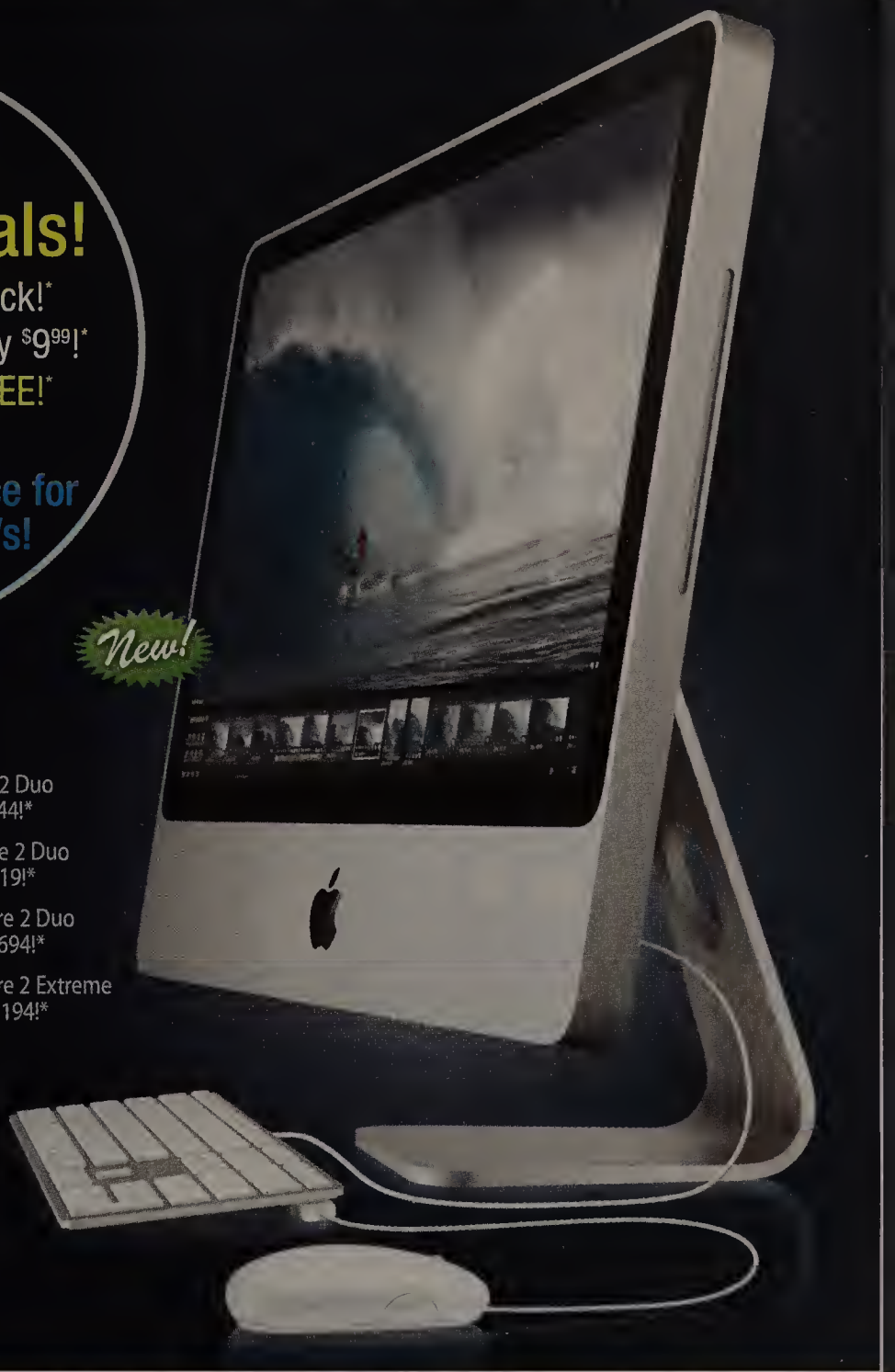
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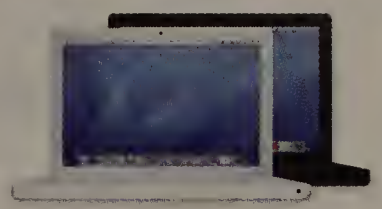


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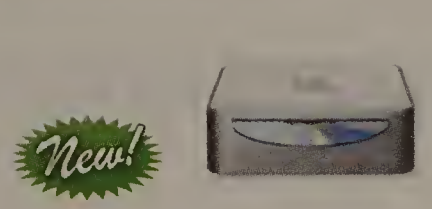


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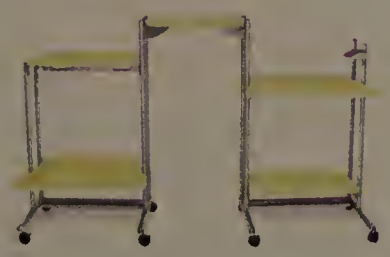
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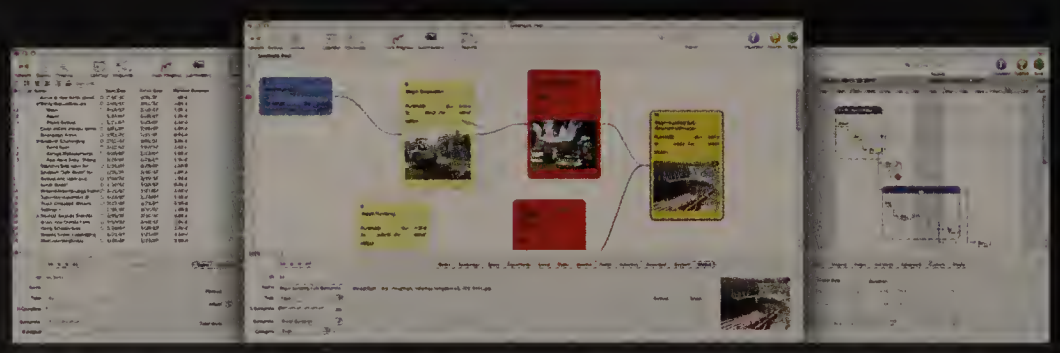


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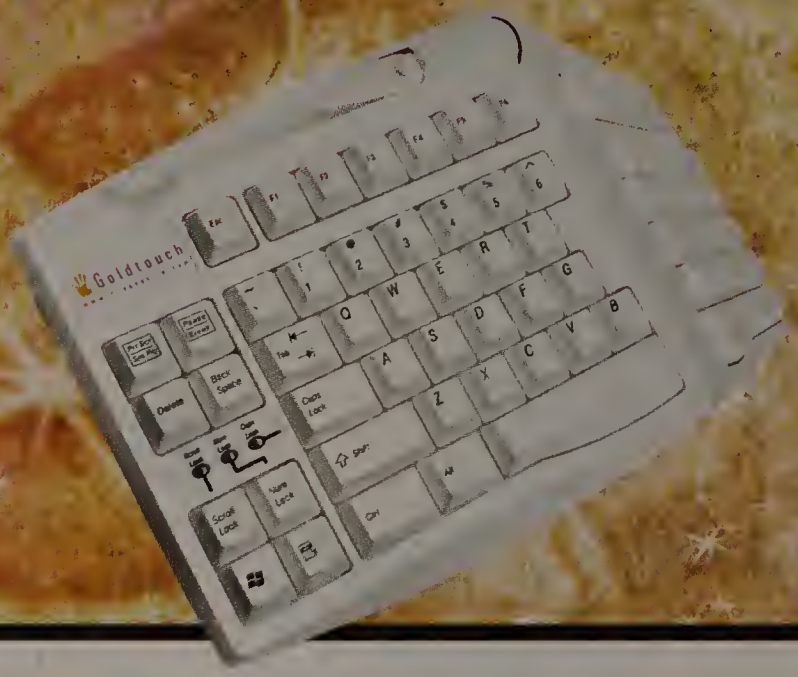
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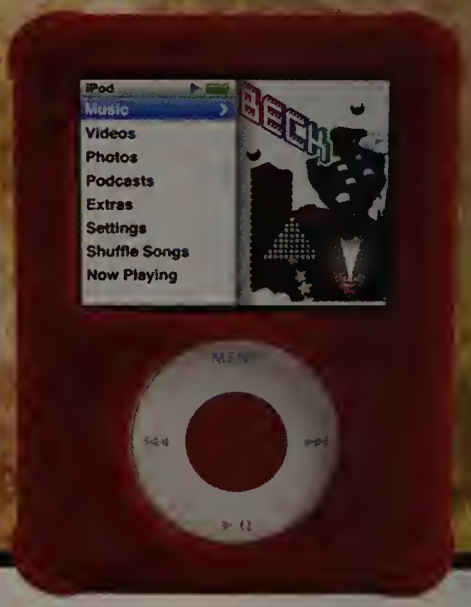
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iPhone: The Readers Speak

Reactions to our coverage of Apple's iPhone. Plus: Quicken alternatives.

Meeting the iPhone

I was surprised at one major omission from your review of the iPhone ("Meet the iPhone," September 2007): its lack of a voice-dialing feature. I love the look and the interface, but for those of us who often have to make calls while on the road for business, the inability to place a call simply by speaking the number or the contact's name is a serious weakness. Until I can make a call without taking my hands off the wheel (as you can with most other new phones), I'll have to hold off.

Chris Watson



In your review of the iPhone, you didn't mention its biggest negative: you can't replace the battery by yourself, and Apple rips you off $75 to do it. (And you don't have a phone until Apple ships it back.) I'll wait to buy the iPhone until I can change my own battery, thank you.

Bob Kocher

It is amazing that with all the ink you used on your iPhone coverage, you left out the biggest drawback to the iPhone: its [cell phone] carrier. Apple needs to open the iPhone to work with other carriers. Until it does, there will be many potential consumers (like me) who will reject the iPhone, no matter how many bells and whistles it has.

Doug Lindsay

Please don't get me wrong. I love my new iPhone. I think it is worth every penny. However, I disagree with something you said in your September issue: "It's also a full-featured iPod." Not true. My iPod (an old, second-generation model) includes EQ and voice memos, and can accept files as an external hard drive; the iPhone doesn't and can't. You also quoted a buyer as saying "Today, I've got three things in my pocket. Tomorrow, I'll have one." Again, not true for me. The iPhone is missing critical PDA features; you can't, for example, search for items in Calendar, Contacts, and Notes. The iPhone's potential is exciting, but it won't be a valid PDA replacement until it at least includes some way to search.

Joe Belotte

I read John Gruber's *Spotlight* column about the iPhone in your September edition ("The New Frontier," September 2007) with incredulity. His contention that a mouse is more precise than my fingers made me snort with derision. Unlike John, I have a lot of respect for my fingers. I think they're fabulously precise. And they should be: nature's been working on them for a few billion years (a bit longer than Steve Jobs and his team have been working on the Mac graphical interface). My mouse provides me with the equivalent of a single fingertip, with which I am expected to do everything. This is worse than inadequate—it's hopelessly limiting.

Colin Bisset

OVERHEARD ON THE FORUMS



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Quicken Pros and Cons

While Quicken for Mac ("Smart Money," September 2007) is probably an adequate program for most people, it is simply inadequate for small business use. You didn't mention the most useful alternative: running Quicken Home and Business (available only for Windows)

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in Parallels. It's a perfect combination: I can bring a terrific accounting system over to my machine of choice, the MacBook Pro (and I can finally get rid of my last PC).

Dan Beach



The author actually did make that very suggestion in the original draft of his story, but we cut it for space reasons. Apologies for the omission.—Dan Miller

I was surprised to see that you recommended Quicken Home Inventory in your otherwise good feature about Quicken tricks. In my experience, Quicken Home Inventory is a complete piece of junk. It is mind-numbingly slow and it constantly crashes. I do not understand why Intuit ever released this program.

Will Windham

I was disappointed not to see In2M's Web-based accounting program Mvelopes Personal (www.mvelopes.com) included in "8 Great Quicken Alternatives." Mvelopes is based on the envelope method of budgeting, in which you set aside money for expenses in virtual envelopes—a proactive way to make sure your money goes where you intend before you spend it. Mvelopes is a subscription service, but it's inexpensive (about $11 a month) and offers a free 30-day trial. I've tried many of the apps mentioned in your article, and for interface and features, I like Mvelopes best.

Frank Piacitelli

After converting to the Mac (thank goodness) after 25 years of using PCs, I found that Quicken for Mac made a mess of my Quicken for Windows data files. But Reilly Technologies' Moneydance ($30; www.moneydance.com) made the conversion flawlessly. I have found it a very easy and intuitive program to use, complete with automatic daily updates of stock and mutual fund prices. I'm sorry, but Gina Trapani missed the boat on this one—Moneydance is easily a "top 8" financial program alternative to Quicken.

Joe Henderson

I recently went through the (surprisingly difficult) process of finding a replacement for the venerable MacMoney (which, alas, never made the transition to OS X). I evaluated several of the apps you reviewed, but the one I ultimately chose was conspicuous in its absence. Nano Software's Accounts ($35; www.nano.com.au) is an inexpensive, elegant double-entry accounting application. It has some features (such as numbered accounts) and a few limitations (no linking to online accounts) that might not suit all users. But it offers the essentials of personal or small-business accounting with simplicity and aplomb.

Steven Naylor

Where's My Mac?

In "GPS for the Mac" (*Mobile Mac*, September 2007) you say, "I've tested Garmin's MapSource software on Parallels, with a handful of current Garmin GPS units, and it worked just fine." This might have been true before the latest Parallels upgrade, but now a problem with Parallels' USB drivers keeps the Garmin unit from working with Parallels. This happens with several hardware combinations and there's no workaround.

Sami Kulju

You might want to also mention the excellent GPSNavX ($60; gpsnavx.com) software, which I've used for years. For marine navigation, it's superior to programs costing hundreds of dollars more.

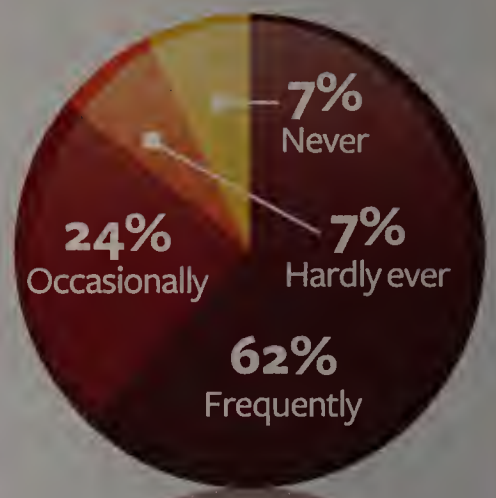
Loren Beach

I have two Garmin GPS units, the nüvi 350 ($537; www.garmin.com) and GPSMap 76CSx ($482). The 350 has been very simple to use with my Mac; it shows up as a mass storage device, so it's simple to drag things into and out of it. The 76CSx, on the other hand, has been a real pain. I attempted to load maps onto it from Windows XP Pro (via Parallels Desktop 2.0) on an Intel Mac Mini with no luck.

Mark Winchester

READER POLL

How often do you reuse the same password for different Web sites?



Source: Karlin Associates

A Modest Proposal

In his September 2007 column (*From the Editor's Desk*), Jason Snell noted that *Macworld* is "a magazine focused on everything Apple—not just the Mac." Here is an idea: Apple recently changed its name to Apple Inc. since it now does more than just computers. Perhaps it's time to change the name of your magazine to *AppleWorld*. If you want to extend my subscription for a few years for suggesting it, that would be cool.

Dan Losinger

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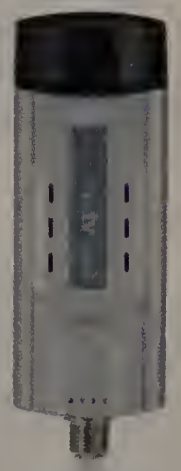


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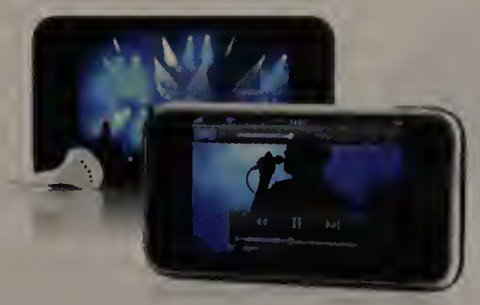


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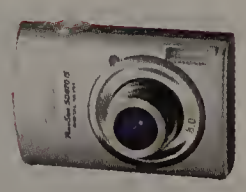


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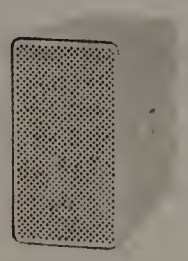
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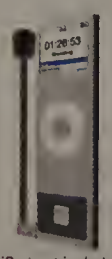


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BUSINESS

One Price Fits All?

How changes to iTunes pricing policy may affect you

BY MACWORLD STAFF

Shoppers perusing the virtual aisles of Apple's iTunes Store this holiday season can expect the usual influx of new TV show episodes and the latest movie releases. But the studios providing that video content to iTunes hope to see something else arriving at Apple's online store—more flexible pricing for their digital wares.

Such a change would be a dramatic shift for Apple, which has followed a one-price-fits-all approach to iTunes offerings since the store made its debut in 2003. Standard music downloads cost 99 cents per track, and individual TV show episodes sell for $1.99. Feature-length movies do come with different prices, but even there the model is fairly rigid—older movies sell for $9.99 while new releases cost $14.99 (or $12.99 for preorders). There are a few exceptions—episodes of the PBS series *Nova* cost $7.99 at iTunes, for example—but by and large Apple has stuck to its pricing guns.

There are indications, however, that the networks supplying programming to iTunes are beginning to bristle at the store's pricing policies. And Apple faces stiffer competition in the video arena than in digital music, where its online dominance has made iTunes the third-largest music retailer behind brick-and-mortar operations Wal-Mart and Best Buy. As a result, the company may have to adopt a more flexible attitude toward video.

Differing Opinions

The issue first came to a head in late summer when NBC Universal and Apple reached an impasse in contract talks to keep selling programs such as *The Office* and *Heroes* on the iTunes Store. Apple claimed that NBC wanted it to "pay more than double the wholesale price" for TV episodes, which Apple says would have pushed user costs to $4.99. NBC countered that it wanted more-flexible pricing. In the end, Apple said that it would stop selling NBC Universal shows at iTunes, though as of this writing, the store continued to offer NBC programs, including at least one new fall series shown on NBC but produced by another company.

The dispute hasn't spread to other networks—CBS CEO Les Moonves said that

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS GASH

his network liked "our relationship with iTunes," while Fox took the step of offering free downloads of its shows' season premieres via Apple's online store. But a report in *Variety* suggests that the issue of pricing is far from settled. The entertainment-industry trade publication reported in September that Apple is pushing for 99-cent downloads of TV episodes in an effort to spur an increase in video sales. Studios are lukewarm to the idea, according to the report, fearing that low-cost downloads might cut into the lucrative sales of DVD box sets for TV shows.

Apple certainly has plenty of incentive to boost downloads of TV shows at the iTunes Store. Through it the company has sold more than 3 billion songs, compared with 95 million TV shows. To put that figure in perspective, Apple sold its

But some TV networks see lower pricing at iTunes as a way to get Apple to agree to some degree of flexibility. The *Variety* report notes that while studios may resist the idea of 99-cent downloads for TV episodes, some would go along with it for older shows and episodes if Apple were to agree to tiered pricing that would allow them to charge more for premium programs.

Customer Experience

At least one analyst believes that would be a mistake for Apple. "The consumer is used to having a fixed price, and that's the way it should be," says Phil Leigh, president of Inside Digital Media. While Leigh sees room for lowering prices on older digital content, he believes that "with a few exceptions, they should be at a fixed price."

Networks are beginning to bristle at the store's pricing policies.

100 millionth song about 15 months after the store launched; TV shows have been available at the store for two years.

With plenty of room for its video download business to grow, Apple also sells many devices for storing and viewing that content. The company recently revamped its entire iPod line, giving video-watching capabilities to the nano, boosting storage capacity on the original iPod (now called the iPod classic), and adding the wide-screen iPod touch, whose raison d'être would seem to be video viewing. (For our review of the new iPods, see "iPod Evolution" on page 62.) Earlier this year, Apple launched two other video-capable devices, the iPhone and the Apple TV.

More downloads of lower-priced programs that are then delivered to Apple-built devices makes business sense for Apple. But does it for the studios selling the shows? For some, the answer appears to be no—indeed, in discussing the network's impasse with Apple, NBC Universal spokesman Cory Shield criticized iTunes pricing as "designed to drive sales of Apple devices, at the expense of those who create the content that make these devices worth buying."

Leigh says that sales could drop if users can't count on a fixed fee. "Variable pricing would deter consumers from the comfortable relationship they have with [iTunes]," he says.

The customer experience has been at the forefront of a lot of Apple's strategic decisions with iTunes. The company has resisted a subscription-based approach, arguing that its customers would prefer to own, not rent, their digital music.

But Apple has also shown a willingness to adjust pricing in return for other concessions from content providers. Take iTunes Plus, a service launched earlier this year. Customers pay $1.29 per music track—30 cents more than a regular iTunes download—and in exchange, they get a song that's encoded at a higher bit rate and free of digital rights management restrictions. It's not hard to imagine Apple adopting similarly flexible pricing in its video offerings if such a move would help it meet other goals—like getting more content onto iPods, iPhones, and Apple TVs.

Will Apple make that decision? Will its TV network partners play along? It's a drama that could rival any program you wind up downloading from iTunes.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Amazon.com Launches MP3 Service

In direct competition with iTunes, Amazon.com announced the public beta of Amazon MP3, a new service offering digital music downloads in MP3 format, unencumbered by digital rights management restrictions. The 256-Kbps files are compatible with any digital music player, including the iPod, and will work on Macs, PCs, and any other devices capable of playing MP3 files. Amazon is introducing the service with a library of more than 2 million songs from more than 180,000 artists, including iTunes Store holdout Radiohead. Amazon MP3 offers the top 100 songs for 89 cents each and the top 100 albums for $8.99, with other songs priced at 99 cents and most albums priced from $5.99 to $9.99.

Apple Releases Logic Studio



Audio professionals have a new tool set in Logic Studio, a suite of applications from Apple that includes Logic Pro 8 and a new program called MainStage. Logic Studio also includes Soundtrack 2, and the company slashed the price to $499—half of what it cost to buy Logic Pro 7 by itself. Among the changes in Logic is a single-window interface and new audio-production tools such as Quick Swipe Comping and dynamic channel strip creation. MainStage turns your Mac into a live performance rig, using a display designed for distant viewing in dim light. Rounding out Logic Studio is a collection of sounds and utilities. Studio Sound Library features content from the five Jam Pack collections and Final Cut Studio 2, for a total of 18,000 Apple Loops, 1,300 EXS instruments, and 5,000 sound effects. Production utilities include WaveBurner, for CD mastering; Compressor 3, for surround-sound encoding; and Impulse Response, for capturing the acoustics of real performance spaces.

BUSINESS

Adobe Turns 25

Where would we be without the software giant?



Imagine a world without Photoshop or PDF—or even without digital fonts, desktop publishing, and the ability to print graphics on a desktop printer. In other words, imagine a world without Adobe.

As Adobe Systems celebrates its 25th anniversary, it's important to recognize how much Adobe is responsible for the way we communicate today. Back in 1982, two enterprising and talented computer scientists left Xerox PARC to form their own company. John Warnock and Chuck Geschke had been working on a computer language that would enable the printing of smooth detailed graphics, liberating graphic designers from X-Acto knives and Rubylith. (It's a testament to Adobe's impact to think how few designers today even know what Rubylith is.) They named the company Adobe Systems after Adobe Creek, which ran through Warnock's backyard, and set up shop first in a spare bedroom and then in a small building in Mountain View, California.

Three years later, in 1985, desktop publishing was unleashed when Warnock and Geschke teamed up with Steve Jobs to create the Apple LaserWriter with Adobe PostScript—a printer based on their computer language and designed to take advantage of the Mac's graphic interface. Paul Brainerd of Aldus then contributed PageMaker page-layout software, which showed off the LaserWriter's smarts. The rest, as they say, is history.

These days, publishing with a personal computer is a given. It's so entrenched in our professional culture that the term *desktop publishing* is quaint and outdated.

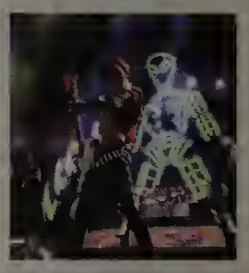
Adobe has had its share of missteps (PageMill, anyone?), but a company doesn't become the second-largest software company in the world without testing new concepts and abandoning the ones that don't work. Overall, however, Adobe has had more successes than failures, and we are the beneficiaries of that record of excellence.—**PAMELA PFIFFNER**

GAME BUZZ

id Software Unveils Rage

Planned for a simultaneous release on OS X, Windows, and game consoles, id Software's Rage is built on a new game engine called id Tech5, and the company has reportedly been at work on the game for the past year and a half. Rage combines elements of first-person shooters and driving. It's set in a postapocalyptic, *Road Warrior*–type environment situated in the southwestern United States. John Carmack, id cofounder and chief technologist, told the throng at the company's annual QuakeCon event that id wanted to do something different from past games like Doom 3 and Quake IV, which emphasize cramped hallways and dimly lit environments. "We've got lots of bright, sunny outdoors," he said.

Guitar Hero III



Aspyr Media is planning to release a Mac version of Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock, the latest edition of the game that puts you on stage as a rock-and-roll hero. It's a music video game bundled with a USB peripheral that looks like a real Gibson guitar (only somewhat smaller). You have to coordinate your movements on the guitar with what's happening on screen, and the closer you time your moves with the parade of colors and symbols on screen, the higher your score. Guitar Hero III uses a soundtrack of more than 70 well-known rock-and-roll songs. The game, which may be available by the time you read this, features a cast of 13 playable characters.—PETER COHEN

WIDGET OF THE MONTH

TimeScroller 1.3

If you frequently schedule phone meetings or conferences across time zones, Terry Brett's TimeScroller (donations accepted) can help you find a mutually agreeable time. Enter the names of participants' cities, and then use the slider at the bottom of the widget to see the corresponding time there (www.timescroller.com).—DAN FRAKES



PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

Fusion R800RAID, from Sonnet Technologies (www.sonnettech.com): Eight-drive SATA disk array storage system aimed at professional video editors comes in preconfigured capacities: 4TB, 6TB, and 8TB (prices start at $4,995).

iWear VR920, from Vuzix (www.vuzix.com): Video eyewear utilizes two LCD displays that show a native 640-by-480-pixel view with a 32-degree field of view to serve as a second screen for a Mac ($400).

TDP-EX20U, from Toshiba (www.toshibadirect.com): Digital Light Processor–based projector with 1,024-by-768-pixel resolution sports 2,300 ANSI lumens brightness, a contrast ratio of 2,000:1, and 802.11g-based wireless networking capabilities ($1,599).

TuneBase FM, from Belkin (www.belkin.com): New FM transmitter uses ClearScan technology to find the best available frequencies for playing iPod music through a car stereo system ($90).

PHOTOGRAPH BY KRIS TIMKEN

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iPHONE

iPhone Hops across the Pond

While the iPhone's price drop, one million unit sales, and software updates may have been big news in the United States, overseas consumers recently got the word that they, too, would be able to enjoy Apple's iPhone in their home countries (no hacking required). Apple announced partnerships with England's O2 and with T-Mobile in Germany, while the CEO of France Telecom (parent company of Orange) said during a trade show in Vietnam that his company would sell the iPhone in France (no official confirmation from Apple yet). Check out our map to see how things are shaping up.—JONATHAN SEFF



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17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete: Mike Kisseberth, President/CEO; October 1, 2007.

iPHONE

Where's the Wi-Fi Love?

U.K. iPhone buyers get free hotspots

Although expected, it was nice to see that Apple had secured deals to sell the iPhone in several countries in Europe (see "iPhone Hops across the Pond," page 30, for more details). First on the list of announcements was England.

So what's my favorite part of Apple's introduction of the U.K. iPhone? No, it's not the charming accents or the fact that the iPhone will now be available in the home of *Doctor Who*. It's that U.K. cellular service from O2 comes bundled with The Cloud. This Europe-wide network offers more than 7,500 Wi-Fi access points. According to my *Macworld UK* counterpart, Mark Hattersley, that includes whole areas such as Canary Wharf; the entire City of London business area; football club venues, including Arsenal and Chelsea; and hotels, cafés, and restaurants, including McDonald's.



So basically, in addition to having a phone that will provide access to EDGE networks, U.K. buyers get access to high-speed Wi-Fi at more than 7,500 different access points, all included with their monthly service plan—perfect for a Wi-Fi–equipped device like the iPhone.

So what about U.S. iPhone users? Right now, we've got bupkes (except for free access to iTunes in many Starbucks locations, so we can spend more money). The sad thing is, AT&T has a Wi-Fi network with hotspots all over the country. But right now it's available only as an add-on for AT&T broadband customers or via a stand-alone monthly fee.

Hmm—AT&T Wireless, have you met AT&T Wi-Fi? You should get together and offer your iPhone customers a low-cost (or dare I suggest free?) way to access your Wi-Fi network. That might keep their calls for 3G data support at bay.—**JASON SNELL**

TECH TRENDS

Video Player Preferences

Consumers want good stuff to watch and a good player to watch it on—that's not rocket science, but it *is* the formula for portable video success. According to a new study from Parks Associates of 382 portable media player owners, low cost, high-tech features and ease of use aren't big drivers of the portable video market. The most important factors are appealing content and a pleasant viewing experience. The study concludes that Apple is "leading the pack" in terms of delivering what customers want with the latest iPod line (see "iPod Evolution" on page 62).—MARYANN JONES THOMPSON





BUSINESS

Universal Office 2008 On the Way

Microsoft details ship date, pricing for Mac suites

Almost four years after the last release of Office for the Mac, Microsoft finally plans to ship the first Universal version of its office suite to people in the United States on January 15, 2008 (with global availability in the few months to follow). During September's Apple Expo in Paris, Microsoft's Macintosh Business Unit also detailed the different editions that will be available, as well as pricing information.

Office will come in three versions: Office 2008 ($400; upgrade, $240), Office 2008 Home & Student Edition ($150), and Office 2008 Special Media Edition ($500; upgrade, $300).

Office 2008 includes Word 2008, Excel 2008, PowerPoint 2008, and Entourage 2008. The Home & Student Edition includes just the four core programs, along with three user licenses. The new Special Media Edition features the Office 2008 applications and adds the Microsoft Expression Media digital asset management system (Microsoft acquired this system, previously called iView, in June 2006). Both the Special Media and Office 2008 editions also include Microsoft Server Exchange support and Automator actions.

All versions of Office 2008 support the new Open XML file format and are Universal applications that run natively on Power PC– and Intel-based Macs.

Microsoft also started a technology guarantee program that allows customers in select regions who purchase qualifying Office 2004 products to upgrade to a version of Office 2008 for the cost of shipping, handling, and applicable taxes. Visit www.macoffice2008.com or Microsoft's Mac Mojo blog at macworld.com/3124 for more Office 2008 news.—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

PRODUCT WATCH

SOFTWARE

Accounted, from Oranged Software (www.oranged.net): Accounting software features double-entry bookkeeping, accounts receivable and payable, split transactions, and check printing ($60).

Carbon Copy Cloner 3, from Bombich Software (www.bombich.com): Mac-to-Mac cloning software features redesigned interface and Intel compatibility (donations accepted).

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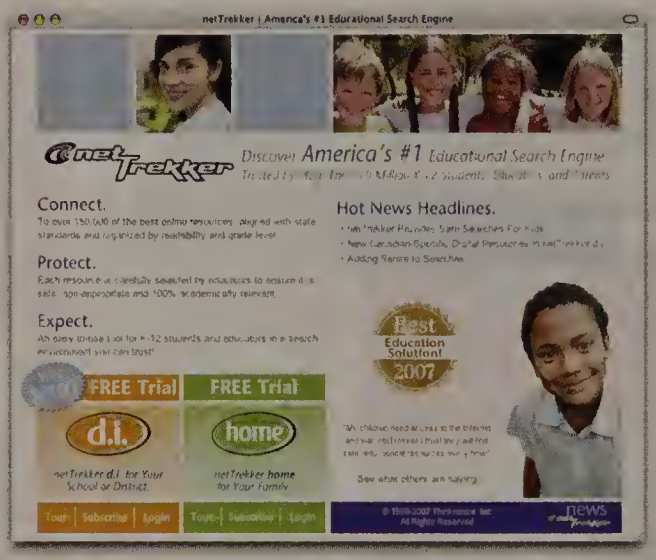
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WEB

Adding Sense to Searches

How netTrekker makes surfing better for students



One of my favorite tasks as a college journalism instructor was killing off Dolly Parton at the start of every semester. Well, not really—at the beginning of every term, I gave my Journalism 101 students the details of the singer's fatal, fictional car crash before turning them loose to compose her obituary. But my first batch of papers changed that. Almost every paper was riddled with the same, small mistakes. Hopping online, I discovered most of these errors were spread all across the Web—clearly, Web sites (just like my students) had copied and recopied information without checking the facts. That assignment taught me that there was one more skill my Web-centric students urgently needed to learn—how to distinguish a good source from a bad one.

I hadn't thought about what a job that must be for today's elementary and secondary teachers until I took Thinkronize's $50-per-year netTrekker home (www.nettrekker.com) for a spin. This kid-safe search engine is billed as a way to help kids avoid accidentally stumbling across age-inappropriate content as they surf the Web.

Thinkronize says that 10 million kids in 19,000 schools currently use the school version, netTrekker d.i., for classwork. But what I found interesting was the search engine's hand-picked links. It doesn't filter out sexual content using keywords. Instead, netTrekker has pressed educators into service to evaluate, rate, and organize links they think have educational value. The upshot is, at least in my testing, that you spend a lot less time picking through chaff to find useful information among your results.—SCHOLLE SAWYER MCFARLAND

DIALOG BOX

"In the U.S. we think we're on the cutting edge, but we're not."

Telecom analyst Jeff Kagan on how advanced wireless networks are in Europe

"We're the ones who should determine what the fair price for our product is, not Apple."

Peter Chernin, president of News Corporation, talking about TV-show pricing at the iTunes Store



"Introducing a product at a premium price and then discounting it makes sense, but not after two months and not by one-third."

Roger Kay, president of Endpoint Technologies, on the iPhone price drop

CREATIVE NOTES

Gallerie Gold Fibre Silk

For those looking for super-high-quality prints, Swiss photo media company Ilford has announced Gallerie Gold Fibre Silk, a fiber-based photo paper that is optimized for black-and-white and color printing (www.ilford.com).



Gold Fibre Silk uses a barium-sulfate coating (more commonly known as *baryta*) to provide a lustrous result similar to what you get on traditional fiber-based photographic paper. It has a smooth, soft glossy face, and a hefty weight of 310 grams per square meter. I've been using it on my Epson Stylus Pro 3800, and am getting wonderfully creamy black-and-white prints and nice platinum-style photographs (courtesy of Pixel Genius's excellent PhotoKit Photoshop plug-in). The company says that the paper is ideal for creating digitally toned monochromatic images, and it offers a free 10-step guide for doing so in Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements.

In the United States, Gold Fibre Silk will be available in letter, Super B (13 by 19 inches), and Super C (17 by 22 inches) sheets, as well as 17-, 24-, and 44-inch rolls. The company wouldn't give me final pricing, but B&H Photo has a 10-sheet Super B–size pack priced at $35 and a 50-sheet pack for $113. ICC color profiles for the Gold Fibre Silk—for use with printers from Canon, Epson, Hewlett-Packard, and Lexmark—are currently on the Ilford Web site, as are profiles for nearly all the Ilford media line.—RICK LEPAGE

PRODUCT WATCH

SOFTWARE

EyeTV 2.5, from Elgato (www.elgato.com): Update to the digital video recorder software adds one-click export to formats optimized for viewing on the iPhone and iPod touch ($80; upgrade, free for EyeTV 2 users).

Nisus Writer Express 3.0, from Nisus Software (www.nisus.com): Streamlined word processor adds floating graphics, glossary support, widow and orphan control, and an improved find-and-replace function ($45; upgrade, $30).

SPSS 16, from SPSS (www.spss.com): Predictive analysis software is now integrated with the Predictive Enterprise Services analytics platform to direct and automate decisions (contact SPSS for pricing).

VectorWorks 2008, from Nemetschek North America (www.nemetschek.net): CAD software features a streamlined interface, including a heads-up data display and the ability to manipulate opacity control by object (contact Nemetschek for pricing).

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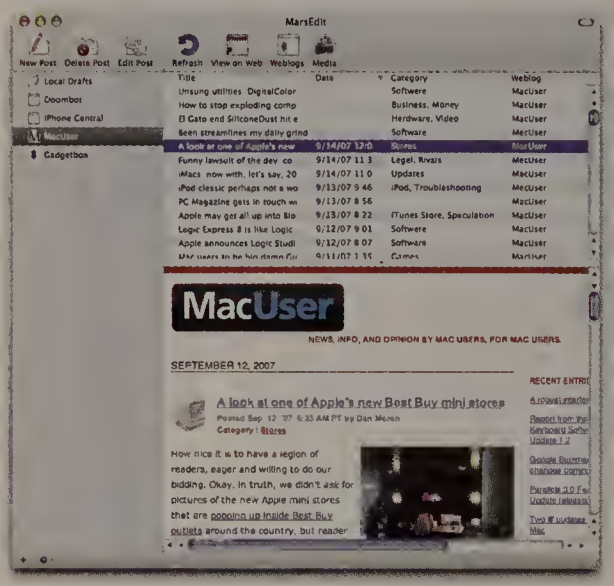
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Xacti

Hot Stuff

What we're raving about this month



MarsEdit 2.0

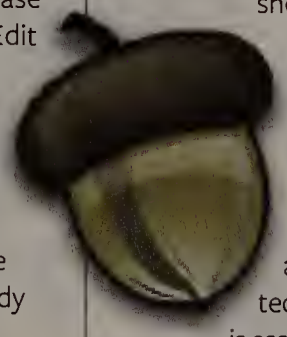
Blogging is a popular pastime among Mac users, but the blogging systems available today can often be daunting, to say the least. Many people would prefer to use a Mac application to take care of the actual posting and uploading of text and images. Unfortunately, a lot of those applications lack features that would make them truly useful. With the release of Red Sweater Software's $30 MarsEdit 2.0, Mac users finally have that useful tool. Compatible with the most popular blogging software on the market, MarsEdit makes writing a blog post simple. It also provides built-in Flickr integration, so you have instant access to images you've already posted on the Internet (www.red-sweater.com).—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

PT8051



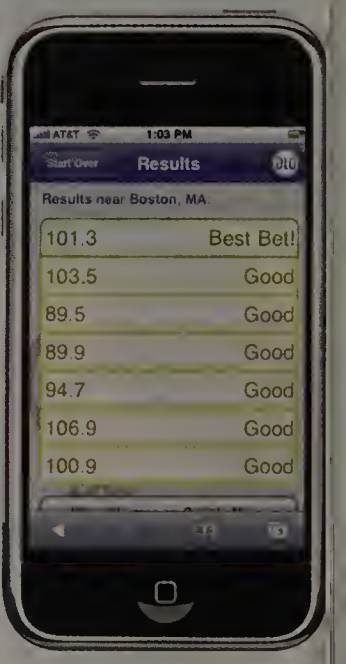
Most people would agree that watching a film in surround sound is better than watching it in mono or stereo. But many people forego theater sound in their TV-watching rooms at home because they don't want to deal with speakers and wires everywhere. Altec Lansing's $1,000 PT8051 offers a unique two-piece solution: a slim, three-channel front-speaker panel for placement under or above your TV, and a similarly slim, two-channel rear-speaker panel for placement on a table or wall behind you. Even better, the rear speaker is wireless—it requires only AC power—so you don't have cables winding around your room or snaking under your carpet. Three digital and three analog inputs give you lots of connection options, an on-screen display simplifies setup, and a subwoofer output lets you connect an amplified subwoofer. Both pieces are made of attractive and sturdy anodized aluminum, and the system includes a universal remote and wall-mounting brackets. Now all Apple has to do is enable Dolby 5.1-channel audio on the Apple TV (alteclansing.com).—**DAN FRAKES**

Acorn



My image-editing tasks are usually limited to making amusing pictures to accompany blog posts. When all I have to do is make a composite of two images, firing up Adobe Photoshop for the job is like using a chain saw to cut wrapping paper. What I need is a lightweight, simple, layer-based image-editing program, and Flying Meat's new $40 Acorn delivers in that department. Taking advantage of the Core Image technology built into Tiger, Acorn is essentially Photoshop for the rest of us (flyingmeat.com).—**DAN MOREN**

OpenFM



FM transmitters are probably the most common way of routing music from your iPod to your car stereo, but in some places finding a frequency that isn't already in use by a local station can be pretty tough. If you've got an iPhone, though, it's a piece of cake to find a clear band with the free OpenFM Web application from Digital Lifestyle Outfitters. Just punch in your zip code or city and state, and OpenFM will give you a list of stations to choose from, and a link to view the area on Google Maps to boot. Once it has found stations, you can choose them on FM transmitters connected to your iPod, or even on some iPhone-compatible accessories (the iPhone works with some of the transmitters currently available, including many from DLO). If nothing else, you won't be forced to resort to sing-alongs to keep everybody entertained on those long road trips (www.dlo.com).—**DAN MOREN**



Goe System

Designers have relied on the Pantone Matching System to specify ink colors for nearly half a century. Now Pantone is shaking things up with the Goe System ($500). The new guide expands the color palette from 1,114 colors to 2,058—including more neutrals, blues, and greens—and features a more precise chromatic arrangement and a new numbering system that should make finding colors easier. Among other extras, the system also includes GoeSticks adhesive color chips and software to help you find good color combinations (www.pantone.com).—**KELLY TURNER**

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Season's Greetings



iPod shuffle | iPod nano3 | iPod classic | iPod touch | Apple Remote | iPhone

zCover iSA micro3 Armband Kit for new Apple iPod nano 3rd Gen.



iSA micro3 Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + Rotary Armband

This package offers maximum mobility for the active iPod nano owner. This combination is ideal for outdoor enthusiasts hiking and biking through the woods, or the fitness fanatic jogging through the streets. Just like the belt clip, the iPod nano is secured to the Armband with zCover's exclusive clip system.

The 360 degree rotation allows you to easily change the iPod nano position to confirm your new running record, or repeat your favorite song. The zCover Armband is fully adjustable from 6 to 18 inches making it suitable for everyone, from small children to beefy body builders. You'll never be "between sizes" again. It's even seasonal, comfortably fitting your bare arm in the summer or a expanding to fit over a heavy coat in the winter. Made from innovative micro-Velcro all surfaces of the Armband are soft and pleasing to touch, making for comfortable contact with the skin. Hand-washable and fully reversible, the stylish black strip is trimmed with silver reflective tape.

zCover iSA touch Original Pack for new Apple iPod touch 8 GB / 16 GB

iSA touch Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip



Offering you full protection for your iPod touch, and the function of mobility with our innovative 360 degree rotating belt clip, this system is the perfect "All-you-need-for-iPod" combo for any iPod touch owner. You can easily wear it horizontally or vertically with just a simple twist. A comfort piece sits in front of the release button to prevent the Belt Clip from jabbing into the user's side. The clip opens with ease and accommodates thumbs and forefingers of any age or size. Unbreakable, functional and comfortable, the Rotary Belt Clip is sure to keep your iPod touch safely and snugly in place.

zCover iSAglove Dockable Kit for new Apple iPhone

iSAglove Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + zAdapter Dock Set

Are you using your iPhone constantly? The Dockable Kit gives you the iSAglove protection, mobility with the 360 degree rotating removable Belt Clip, but also provides the zAdapter iPhone Dock Set, an original zCover design that adapts to iPod cable or iPhone calbe into iPhone Dock, allowing you the freedom to dock your iPhone with iSAglove Silicone Protection Case.



zCover iSA classic Car Kit for new Apple iPod classic 80 GB / 160 GB

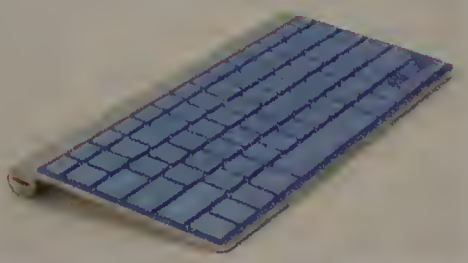
iSA classic Silicone Protection Case + Removable Belt Clip + Window Clip



The Car Kit adds a whole new element to the experience of owning an iPod Classic Besides the protection of the iSA classic cover, the mobility of the 360 degree rotating Belt Clip, the additional window clip creates a portable hands-free workstation or entertainment unit almost anywhere, including the office, car, plane, boat and home. It doesn't matter which way you turn it, the iSA classic Car kit is ideal for those on the road.

zCover Universal Belt Clip, Armband, Window Clip are completely interchangeable .

zCover TypeOn for new Apple Aluminum Keyboard





> zCover silicone skin are crafted from non-toxic, durable high-grade silicone rubber. It is safe.
> Ultra thin (0.6mm) skin touch feeling, durable,
> Made of 100% high grade silicone,
> Full shock-absorbing, tear-resistant protection,
> Molded to specifically fit every point,
> Removable easy on and off for cleaning,
> Stays in place and does not shift around,
> Washable - you can wash zCover silicone typeOn skin by hand.
Make sure it's dried out before put it on your keyboard

BEST BUY FUTURE SHOP

Reviews



Pocket-Friendly Compact Cameras

Point-and-Shoot Cameras Aim to Offer Powerful Performance in Small Packages

BY DAVID BECKER

One of the prime rules of photography has always been that you can't capture a great image if you don't have a camera with you. For most of photographic history, that has usually meant dragging around cumbersome gear. But with the maturation of digital imaging, you can always be ready for a great photographic moment with a small, lightweight camera that not only fits easily in a purse or pocket but might even coordinate with your shoes.

The catch in times past was that tiny cameras often came with minuscule capabilities. From undersize, noisy images to tiny view screens, using a point-and-shoot camera often meant settling for images that fell squarely in the snapshot category—fun and candid, maybe, but forget about anything more elaborate than a postcard-size print.

That's not the case anymore, as camera makers are packing surprising power and flexibility into deceptively elfin packages. *Macworld* decided to get the lay of the land by trying out seven petite but powerful cameras vying to become your next photographic workhorse for vacations and family outings.

We began by seeking out compact cameras that weigh less than half a pound—and fit in a shirt pocket. While some of the cameras look similar to the generic little silver boxes you'll find in every drugstore, big-box retailer, and electronics bargain outlet, most have distinguishing features that show how hard camera makers are working to differentiate their wares. The cameras we looked at had list prices ranging from $280 to $500 (although most retailers offer modest to steep discounts), far above the $200 that will get you a plain but serviceable point-and-shoot camera these days.

Camera makers employ an array of strategies to justify the higher price tag, and some of them actually work, making it all the harder to declare an absolute favorite among the seven we reviewed: Canon's PowerShot TX1, Casio's Exilim EX-V7, Nikon's Coolpix S50c, Olympus's Stylus 770 SW, Panasonic's Lumix DMC-FX100, Samsung's NV11, and Sony's Cyber-shot DSC-T100.

We sought out cameras that weigh less than half a pound—and fit in a pocket.

By the Numbers

Resolution used to be the first thing you looked at when buying a camera, but at this point you can pretty much assume any camera you buy will grab more than enough pixels to make fine 8-by-10-inch prints. The Canon, Casio, Nikon, and Olympus cameras were the resolution lightweights among the cameras we tested, at around 7 megapixels, yet the Canon model produced images on a par with those of beefier rivals.

The Panasonic model topped the scale at 12.2 megapixels. Cramming that many pixels into a small package could potentially be problematic. Camera makers have to shrink the physical proportions of the image sensor chip that captures all the light data. More pixels on a smaller chip means smaller pixels and less space between them, which can add noise and blur to images. Throw in a small-diameter lens, and the camera has even less light to work with. Yet the Panasonic served up crisp, well-balanced images at every resolution setting; payoff, perhaps, for the company's decision not to try to shrink the lens and cram it into the camera body, as many manufacturers do to save space.

Lens zoom factor is another key number, with 3× being the current standard. The Samsung and Sony cameras bump that up to 5×, while the Casio does 7×

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

and the Canon magnifies to a startling (look at those facial blemishes!) 10×. Oddly, though, the Canon's focal range starts at 39mm, extending to a downright telescopic 390mm. The 3.6× lens on the Panasonic was more useful, ranging from a true wide-angle equivalent of 28mm—great for capturing landscapes and other scenic shots—to a reasonably zoomed-in 100mm.

Other details worth looking at include the size of the LCD viewing screen. A 2.5-inch screen (as on the Olympus and Samsung models) offers acceptably large previews, while the increasingly common 3-inch screens (on the Sony and Nikon cameras) look swell, but can crowd out anything but the most basic controls. The swivel screen on the Canon was a special case: though it was sometimes too small to afford a clear view, its handy ability to let you view images from odd angles will surprise you.

One number that may not mean as much as camera makers want you to think is light sensitivity. Models such as the Panasonic claim the ability to grab images in near pitch-dark conditions by bumping up sensitivity as far as ISO 6400 (for comparison, ISO 400 was the usual choice in the days of film), but the resulting images are too noisy to serve as anything but abstract art. With most point-and-shoot cameras, you risk capturing a wealth of image-killing noise if you go much higher than ISO 800.

There weren't significant differences in startup times among the cameras that we tested, with each one ready to shoot in two to three seconds. We didn't notice any appreciable problems with shutter lag, either.

Battery life can be one of the biggest variables with compact cameras, and sure enough, our test models were all over the map. A total of 500 shots per battery charge is a reasonable expectation in this class of camera. The low performer in our group was the Nikon S50c, which pooped out after about 350 shots. On the opposite end of the scale, the Casio and Samsung batteries were good for around 1,200 shots.

Shake and Take

Camera makers continue to search for ways to take the guesswork out of composing great images. The two latest must-have features in that neighborhood—which most of the cameras we tested included in some form—are face recognition and image stabilization.

The two latest must-have features—which most of the cameras we tested include—are face recognition and image stabilization.

Face recognition is essentially an addition to the autofocus and autoexposure features built into the camera. The system recognizes human faces in a shot—provided that both eyes are visible—and adjusts exposure and focus for the faces, not the background or other objects. The faces usually have to be in the foreground, taking up at least 10 percent of the frame, and the feature works only on humans (even if your dog is just like a member of the family).

The face-detection features worked reliably in all the cameras, and they might be helpful for people who haven't learned—or can't be bothered with learning how—to lock in focus and exposure by pressing down the shutter button halfway.

Image stabilization—also known as antishake—addresses a more real-life problem, which several trends in the camera business have exacerbated. Longer zoom lenses (up to 17× on some models) and support for low-light shooting (which requires slower shutter speeds) make it harder to frame a steady shot. Add in the near disappearance of optical viewfinders, which allow you to steady the camera by holding it against your face, and there's a whole lot of shaking going on.

Camera makers have employed a variety of methods to counteract those jitters. The cheapest (and weakest) way is to have the camera bump up shutter speed and ISO settings in difficult conditions, an approach that merely trades blur for somewhat less objectionable noise. That's the approach Samsung takes with the NV11, and, sure enough,



Casio's Exilim EX-V7 and Canon's PowerShot TX1



Nikon's Coolpix S50c and Olympus's Stylus 770 SW

we found its Advanced Shake Reduction feature the least useful steadying influence among the seven cameras.

More-sophisticated systems make precise compensating movements in the camera's lens or image sensor to counteract shaky hands. Sensor shift, as employed by the Casio and Olympus cameras, varies widely in effectiveness. The Casio system provided marginal improvements, while the Olympus version saved the day on some difficult shots, but choked on others. The lens-shift option used by the Canon, Nikon, Sony, and Panasonic models tends to produce more consistent results. In real-world tests conducted on a rocking ferry in San Francisco Bay, the Sony and Panasonic cameras did the most impressive job of producing blur-free images. (For more information about how image stabilization works, see "Steady Your Shot" at macworld.com/3123.)

Form and Function

Design counts for a lot in this class of camera, and there was plenty to love and hate among our seven subjects. The standout of the bunch—and not necessarily in a positive way—is Canon's TX1, which eschews the horizontal orientation typical of still cameras for a vertical design similar to that of compact video camcorders. The swiveling LCD screen is designed to let you keep one eye on the action while you shoot, and it folds flat against the body of the camera when not in use. The TX1's unusual form is accompanied by an awkwardly positioned and designed zoom control (although it would work fine if you held the camera horizontally—go figure). Accessing basic settings and navigating through menus requires using an odd little nubbin of a joystick that never felt comfortable.

All this "innovation" serves little practical purpose. Given the size of the TX1, the vertical orientation seemed no more steady or natural when we used the device to shoot video clips. And any attempt to position the TX1 as a more capable video machine—all the cameras include adequate video modes—is undercut by Canon's inexplicable decision to employ a novel, grossly inefficient JPEG-based codec for capturing video at high resolution. The latest dedicated camcorders use variations on MPEG-4 to let you grab up to an hour of HD video on one piece of recording media. With the TX1, you can fit only a paltry 14 minutes on a 4GB SD card.

The Samsung NV11 also sports a good deal of innovation in the design department, this time employed to more impressive effect. The back of the camera has only two labeled buttons, accompanied by vertical and horizontal rows of touch-sensitive buttons encircling the screen. On-screen icons tell you the function of each button. You access a function by clicking on the button, and you adjust sliders and scroll through menus by sliding your finger over the row of buttons. It took ten minutes or so to get comfortable with the Smart Touch system, but once we did, it was hard to go back to the old routine. Users who have big thumbs, however, may find it difficult to press the right button consistently.

The NV11 wins further design points for its sleek, serious, black-metal body and a rubber strip located right where the fingers in your gripping hand are likely to rest, providing a welcome sense of reassurance that the whole thing won't slip out of your hands. On the downside, the NV11's extended-lens assembly makes it the least pocket-friendly of the cameras we tested.

Other design novelties (both welcome and not) include the Casio

Canon PowerShot TX1



3 thumbs

PROS: Superlong zoom lens; swivel LCD screen; good image stabilization.

CONS: Awkward vertical orientation; unappealing HD video codec; overexposed images.

PRICE: $500

COMPANY: Canon, www.canonusa.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2986

Casio Exilim EX-V7



3½ thumbs

PROS: Big 7× zoom lens; manual exposure controls.

CONS: Basic settings are hard to get to; clumsy docking station required for charging the battery.

PRICE: $280

COMPANY: Casio, www.casio.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2988

Nikon Coolpix S50c



3 thumbs

PROS: Built-in Wi-Fi; slick image-editing capabilities.

CONS: Wi-Fi has limited utility; images are soft and lack detail; easy to switch on or off accidentally.

PRICE: $350

COMPANY: Nikon, www.nikonusa.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2983

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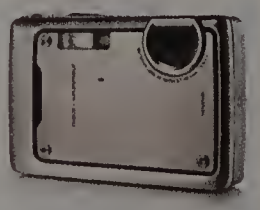
BUFFALO

EX-V7's zoom control—a slider whose location adjacent and parallel to the LCD screen ensures optimum awkwardness. The Nikon Coolpix S50c has a rotating control wheel reminiscent of the scroll wheel on a cheap iPod knockoff—whether it's an improvement on the standard jog dial is debatable. The Nikon also has the only power switch that repeatedly turned on or off accidentally when we bumped or grabbed the camera. Both the Casio and Sony models have sliding metal lens covers that also turn the camera on, a refreshingly sturdy alternative to the automatic lens protectors found on most point-and-shoot cameras—usually the first thing to fail.

Speaking of sturdiness, almost all the cameras scored well for ruggedness, with stout metal bodies. The exceptions are the Nikon model, whose plastic body seemed a bit on the chintzy (and scratch-prone) side, and the Olympus Stylus 770 SW, which goes well beyond mere ruggedness. Rated as waterproof at depths of up to 33 feet, shockproof enough to survive drops of up to 5 feet, and freezeproof down to 14 degrees, the camera is built to take abuse. We toted it along on a couple of kayaking trips, and it easily shrugged off repeated dunkings in salt water. To make aquatic photography easier, the Olympus's scene mode includes four different underwater settings. The camera also includes a manometer that can measure atmospheric pressure to record the altitude or depth for each shot you take. It even takes video—with sound—while underwater.

All the cameras tested have rechargeable batteries, so it's also worth consid-

Olympus Stylus 770 SW



PROS: Waterproof; shockproof case is built for rough outdoor use.

CONS: Soft-looking images; uses expensive xD cards; harsh flash.

PRICE: $380

COMPANY: Olympus, www.olympus.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2987



Side Orders

Right out of the box, your compact digital camera will take pictures and amaze the natives, but you'd be wise to budget a few more dollars for accessories that will help you get better photos and protect your investment. Here are some near-essentials worth considering.

Set It Straight

If you're buying a supremely portable camera, you don't want to defeat the purpose by lugging around a full tripod. Yet there are shooting situations (fireworks, self-portraits) in which a camera support comes in awfully handy. A versatile, compact alternative is The Pod Industries' **The Pod** A ($15; macworld.com/2990), a round beanbag with an attached tripod socket. It can help you handle uneven terrain and difficult placements, and it's easy to stow for travel.

Shine a Light

You probably won't need to use your new camera for very long before discovering the limitations of its built-in flash. Buy yourself some extra exposure control with the **CameraBright** B ($35; macworld.com/2992), a bank of battery-powered, color-balanced LEDs that twists into the tripod socket at the bottom of the camera.

Tie One On

While all the cameras in this review are designed to slide into your pocket or purse, there are times when it's easier (and safer for the camera) to keep it in a case. Built NY offers the **Electric Pocket** C ($17; macworld.com/2993), a stylish fleece-lined neoprene sleeve with a loop for quickly attaching to a belt, purse strap, or backpack clip. No more digging through your bag to find your camera.

Dim the Lights

Optical viewfinders have all but disappeared from compact cameras, so you'll have to struggle to make out the LCD screen every time you want to shoot in bright outdoor light. Pop-up shades such as Delkin Device's **Universal Pop-Up Shade** D ($20; macworld.com/2995) not only give you a fighting chance to see what you're shooting, but also protect the LCD screen from scratches, smudges, and worse.

Stay in Charge

Unavoidable fact of life: the battery on your camera always runs out right before the coolest thing you ever saw appears. Protect yourself from disappointment by keeping a charged spare battery with you. Outfits such as **Batteries.com** sell reliable third-party batteries ($9 to $14; macworld.com/2994) for half what they cost from the camera maker.

Keep It Clean

Any camera that shares your life as much as a compact point-and-shoot does is likely to get dirty. Keep the LCD screen and lens free of smudges with a gentle cleaning cloth. Alpine Innovations' **Spudz microfiber cloths** E ($5; macworld.com/2996) do the job right and conveniently pack away in an attached storage pouch.



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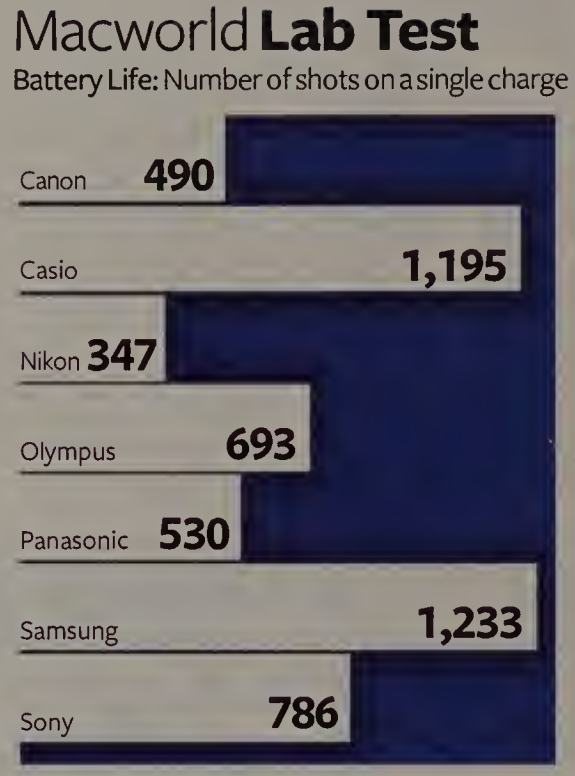
ering the ergonomics of the battery charger. Panasonic and Sony win points for including the most compact chargers—no cord required. And Casio gets a ding or two for limiting recharging to a plastic docking cradle that's bound to be an awkward fit in a suitcase.

Working with Images

All the cameras also include USB 2.0 cables for transferring images from camera to computer or printer. The Nikon S50c offers another option—built-in Wi-Fi support—for getting photos out of the camera. At first this seemed like just a gimmick to replace a USB cable. But travelers might find the Wi-Fi capability quite useful, because the camera includes functions for sending photos straight to Flickr or for e-mailing them and storing them online via Nikon-supported services.

Using Wi-Fi can be a hit-or-miss proposition, though. You'll need to sign up online and pay for a hotspot subscription with Nikon partner T-Mobile before you can use one of its nodes. The camera probably won't work with other paid Wi-Fi services because only T-Mobile has concocted a way to log on via the camera. And it may be difficult to use many free public Wi-Fi services (such as those in hotel lobbies and conference rooms), because the lack of a browser means there's no way to click on a terms-of-service button as many hotspots require.

Home networks and unprotected Wi-Fi networks should work. It was a cinch to connect to the free hotspot at a local java house. The camera quickly and easily mailed off a batch of JPEGs to an e-mail address we specified through the surprisingly pain-free setup tools. This *could* be a great way to keep in contact with friends, prevent memory-card overload, and back up important shots when you're on the road, but it'll be a challenge to find locations where you can actually use the Wi-Fi and e-mail features.



Longer is better. To test battery life, we started with fully charged batteries and took photos at the highest resolution and quality with the flash turned on. We took ten photos and then transferred them to iPhoto, choosing the Delete Items From Camera After Importing option. We then repeated the process until the battery died.

In-camera editing is another recent development, and most of the cameras we looked at offered tools for cropping, resizing, or otherwise altering images after capturing them. Some of the most useful tools are in the Nikon camera, whose D-Lighting control accurately and delicately optimizes the balance of highlights and shadows. It came impressively close to replicating Adobe Photoshop's ability to change the *levels*—adjusting the tonal range—of an image from inside a tiny little consumer camera. The Canon TX1 lets you trim video clips in-camera (not a bad idea given its storage constraints), and the Sony camera comes with a number of special effects that you can apply to a captured photo, such as simulating the effects of fish-eye and starlight filters.

All the cameras include software for browsing and organizing images, but they offer few of these programs for the Mac. While you can always use Apple's iPhoto, you may want to check out a few software extras, such as panorama-stitching utilities that turn a series of shots into a wide-screen image. Canon includes a Mac version of its PhotoStitch application; Panasonic throws in a copy of ArcSoft's Mac-compatible Panorama Maker.

Each camera comes with solid documentation, but Sony and Samsung relegate the bulk of the user manual to a PDF file burned on the software disc. This seems like an awfully cheap and shortsighted decision for a compact camera you're likely to learn to use far away from a computer.

As camera makers keep stuffing more features into smaller spaces, they are also giving users a choice of how much hand-holding they want. The cameras we looked at are primarily intended for point-and-shoot photography, relying on the camera's automatic controls, but it's nice to know that your camera will give you room to do your own thing as your skills and vision expand. The Samsung and Casio models come out best on that score. They allow the photographer to manually set shutter speed and aperture for creative exposures, such

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FX100



4 bugs

PROS: Wide-angle lens; good detail and exposure; easy-to-navigate interface; 12-megapixel sensor; sturdy titanium shell.

CONS: No manual controls.

PRICE: $400

COMPANY: Panasonic, www.panasonic.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2989

Samsung NV11



4½ bugs

PROS: Slick controls; good resolution; attractive exterior; manual exposure options.

CONS: Subpar image stabilization; won't fit easily in your pocket.

PRICE: $350

COMPANY: Samsung, www.samsung.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2984

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T100



3 bugs

PROS: Stylish and petite; 5× zoom; good image stabilization.

CONS: Confusing menus; flash is underpowered; uses expensive Memory Stick media.

PRICE: $349

COMPANY: Sony, www.sony.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/2985

Live Life Loud™



iHome™

Rock and roll out of bed with your iH8 iPod® alarm clock radio. From your first stretch to your last yawn, groove to your favorite tunes. Your iPod® powers up on the one-size-fits all charging dock, while the clear Reson8™ speakers take your music to a higher level. Sounds like another beautiful day.

The world's #1 producer of clock radios for the iPod

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as using a slow shutter speed to create a gauzy fuzz over a moving stream, or stopping down the aperture to boost depth of field. The other cameras leave little room for creative experimentation, letting you fiddle around only with background values such as the ISO setting and white balance.

The Proof Is in the Picture

The final test of any camera is the images it produces. While all the cameras are capable snapshot producers, closer examination revealed subtle to blatant differences in exposure computation, image sharpness and detail, color, and more.

To compare apples to apples, we tried each of the cameras in several types of natural-light and studio settings, varying the resolution and trying different automatic exposure controls. With all the cameras at identical studio settings, we took shots of a still-life scene and a resolution test chart. In these lab tests, our assembled panel of experts rated the Samsung NV11 as Superior for its Color Quality (see "Compact Point-and-Shoot Cameras Compared"). For Image Quality, the Samsung NV11 and the Canon TX1 both garnered Very Good ratings. There were no clear standouts in the Flash Quality test, with most of these cameras rated as merely Good. The Sony fared worst in this area, getting a Poor rating.



Sony's Cyber-shot DSC-T100 and Panasonic's Lumix DMC-FX100

We then compared images at 100 percent magnification on screen in Photoshop. You may seldom view a photo at such proportions, but it's a real eye-opener if you want to see how well each camera truly performs.

The results became apparent after a couple of viewings. The Panasonic provided good detail, smart exposure calibration, and rich, true colors in a variety of settings. The Samsung NV11 was nearly its equal, offering slightly more pleasing exposures but showing a small loss of detail and clarity.

The Casio EX-V7 was fairly average on all counts, while the Canon TX1 and Sony DSC-T100 suffered from only moderate loss of detail but demonstrated a pronounced tendency to overexpose images. The Olympus 770 SW and, surprisingly, the Nikon S50c sadly landed at the bottom of the heap; both tended to produce soft, mushy images, with fine details lost in a general pixel haze.

Macworld's Buying Advice

It was a tough call coming down the stretch, but in the end we chose the Samsung NV11 as our top product of the bunch. Its image quality is overall the best in the group; its full range of manual exposure options make it a camera to grow with; and the touch-sensitive controls actually made it fun to use—the first time in a while we've been able to say that about a compact digital camera. Factor in steep discounts by many retailers (street prices for the camera were as low as $275 at the time of this writing), and the NV11 is a solid value.

David Becker is a San Francisco–based freelance writer who regularly covers personal technology, gadgets, and travel.

Compact Point-and-Shoot Cameras Compared

	Canon PowerShot TX1	Casio Exilim EX-V7	Nikon Coolpix S50c	Olympus Stylus 770 SW	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FX100	Samsung NV11 TOP PRODUCT	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T100
RATING	♦♦♦	♦♦♦½	♦♦♦	♦♦♦	♦♦♦♦	♦♦♦♦½	♦♦♦
PRICE	$500	$280	$350	$380	$400	$350	$349
PERFORMANCE							
IMAGE QUALITY	Very Good	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Good
COLOR QUALITY	Very Good	Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Superior	Poor
FLASH QUALITY	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Poor
SPECIFICATIONS							
RESOLUTION	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.1	12.2	10.1	8.1
ZOOM/FOCAL LENGTH (35MM EQUIVALENT)	10x/39mm–390mm	7x/38mm–266mm	3x/38mm–114mm	3x/38mm–114mm	3.6x/28mm–100mm	5x/38mm–190mm	5x/35mm–175mm
BATTERY TYPE	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion	Rechargeable lithium ion
MEDIA	SD, SDHC, MMC, MMCplus	SD, SDHC, MMC	SD	xD	SD, SDHC	SD, SDHC, MMCplus	Memory Stick Duo Pro, Memory Stick Duo
SIZE (W × H × D IN INCHES)	3.5 × 2.4 × 1.1	3.8 × 2.4 × 1.0	3.8 × 2.3 × 0.8	3.6 × 2.3 × 0.8	3.8 × 2.1 × 1.0	4.2 × 2.5 × 0.9	3.6 × 2.3 × 1.0
WEIGHT (IN OUNCES)	7.8	5.3	4.4	5.5	5.3	6.8	6.1

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www.iSkin.com



macworld.com/reviews

What we're reviewing online this month



SOFTWARE

Painter X △

RATING: 4½ **PRICE:** $429; upgrade, $229

COMPANY: Corel **URL:** www.corel.com

Designed by artists for artists, Painter X (version 10.1) is truly the digital equivalent of a traditional art studio. Painter X offers features specifically for pro photographers and budding fine artists including a beefed-up photo-painting system, an impressive array of composition tools, and a set of brushes you've got to see to believe. If you're an artist, using Painter X is natural and intuitive. For the aspiring artist, Painter is a great way to learn. Professional photographers will love the ability to transform photos into beautiful paintings with little effort. The learning curve for nonartists is fairly challenging, however, and in addition to the software, you'll need a graphics tablet (macworld.com/3105).

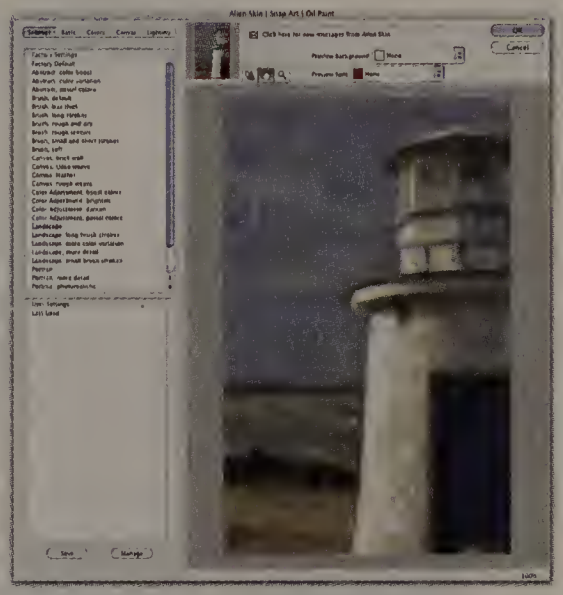
SketchUp Pro 6

RATING: 4 **PRICE:** $495 **COMPANY:** Google

URL: www.sketchup.com

Google's SketchUp Pro 6 is an enhanced version of its free SketchUp 6 program. The free version features the software's powerful 3-D functionality, while the pro version adds two features necessary for professional modelers. If you're interested in using Google's SketchUp as a 3-D modeler, start with the free version. If you get comfortable with the program's 3-D drawing environment and you need to export your models to formats not supported by the free version, or if you want to produce 2-D presentations, then consider the Pro version (macworld.com/3106).

FIND IT ONLINE For expanded reviews, type the blue URL at the end of each summary into your browser's address bar.



Snap Art △

RATING: 4 **PRICE:** $149 **COMPANY:** Alien Skin Software **URL:** www.alienskin.com

Turning a photograph into digital art is no easy task. Fortunately, Alien Skin's Snap Art plug-in for Adobe Photoshop and other photo and graphic editors takes the heavy lifting out of creating sketches, paintings, comics, and stylized illustrations from photos. Designed for both hobbyists and professional artists, Snap Art consists of ten natural-media art filters—Color Pencil, Comics, Impasto, Oil Paint, Pastel, Pen and Ink, Pencil Sketch, Pointillism, Stylize, and Watercolor—available from Photoshop's Filter menu. Snap Art's ease of use and variety of customizable effects make it an efficient alternative to Photoshop's native brushes and actions, as well as to full-featured art applications like Corel Painter (macworld.com/3107).

Path Analyzer Pro Premier 2.6

RATING: 3½ **PRICE:** $40 **COMPANY:** Vostrom

URL: www.vostrom.com

People who spend a lot of time working on networked computers can burn up a lot of time trying to figure out what's wrong with their network. Path Analyzer Pro 2.6 can help you find the trouble spots. The program's greatest benefit is that it brings guru-level trace analysis to Mac users, but its easy-to-use Mac interface is stymied by minimal documentation. Path Analyzer Pro is a good choice for networking geeks who want a visual tool that goes further than Terminal commands for analyzing trace routes. But for the rest of us, Path Analyzer Pro's potential remains out of reach without a guide to its power (macworld.com/3108).



Lego Star Wars II △

RATING: 4 **PRICE:** $40 **COMPANY:** Feral Interactive **URL:** www.feralinteractive.com

Lego Star Wars was a surprise hit when it was released in 2005. The game seemed to fit squarely into the casual family-game space, but it built a cult following of regular gamers and *Star Wars* enthusiasts who really loved the action. So it's little wonder that LucasArts followed with a sequel, Lego Star Wars II. And in just about every respect, this one is better. As with the first game, you're playing a third-person action game using scenery and characters that look like they were created with Lego blocks. *Star Wars* and Lego—it tickles two centers of the geek brain simultaneously. Lego Star Wars II excels as a family-friendly action game, but that's also a potential weakness, at least for experienced gamers, who will find the action less than challenging. But you can't be all things to all people. Lego Star Wars II

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is a lot of fun, both for younger players and for fans of the original *Star Wars* trilogy (macworld.com/3121).

HARDWARE

AirPort Extreme Base Station (Gigabit Ethernet version)

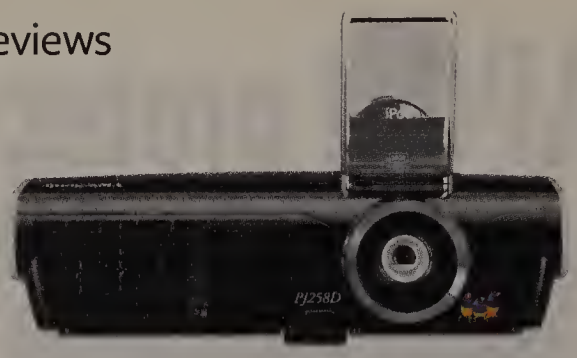
RATING: ●●●●½ **PRICE:** $179 **COMPANY:** Apple
URL: www.apple.com

Apple has refreshed its previous Base Station by upgrading its Ethernet from 10/100 Mbps to 10/100/1,000 Mbps, offering Gigabit Ethernet in parity with the speed found in almost the entire Mac computer lineup. This new model goes beyond improving just the wired side of the network. By adding Gigabit Ethernet, Apple took the governor off the top of the Base Station's engine, allowing it to far exceed the previous model's limits. Apple has now set such a high bar that the performance very nearly reaches the current 802.11n and Ethernet standards underlying the Base Station's networks (macworld.com/3109).

PJ258D Projector

RATING: ●●●½ **PRICE:** $1,399
COMPANY: ViewSonic **URL:** www.viewsonic.com

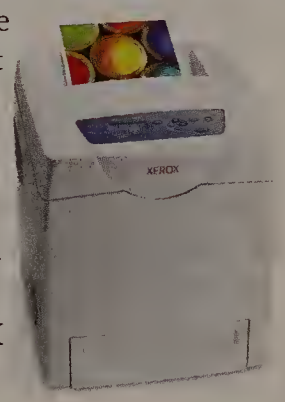
Projectors were once used only to bore people to tears with lengthy PowerPoint presentations; but today, these devices are as much at home in the living room as they are in the boardroom. ViewSonic's PJ258D is a good example of the projector market's turn toward home entertainment. Because an iPod dock and speakers are incorporated into this very portable projector, you can use it to watch movies and TV shows downloaded from the iTunes Store on a screen or any available white wall. The PJ258D's size, weight, and feature set make it easy to move from the office to your living room and back. Unfortunately, though, it lacks some of the key features necessary to make it a star performer in either setting (macworld.com/3110).



Phaser 6180/DN

RATING: ●●●● **PRICE:** $649 **COMPANY:** Xerox
URL: www.xerox.com

The Xerox Phaser 6180/DN is a color laser printer made for small to mid-size businesses. The machine's fast print speeds; crisp, clean prints; and user friendliness should make it popular in the office. Additionally, the printer features 10/100BaseTX Ethernet networking capability, automatic duplexing, and Adobe PostScript 3 compatibility. Though you won't get premium color or image quality, the 6180/DN's generous array of features won't leave you asking for much more from this sub-$1,000 color laser printer (macworld.com/3057).



Evolt E-510

RATING: ●●●●
PRICE: $1,000 (with 14mm–42mm and 40mm–150mm Zuiko zoom lenses)
COMPANY: Olympus
URL: www.olympusamerica.com



While many digital SLRs compromise features for a lower price point, Olympus is bucking the trend with its Evolt E-510. This 10.2-megapixel camera is designed for the photo enthusiast who has a basic sense of photographic technique and wants a camera that can handle almost any situation. While some might find its depth of features a bit daunting, overall the E-510 is a solid, flexible camera that takes very good pictures under most conditions (macworld.com/3113).

Aego M

RATING: ●●●●● **PRICE:** $200
COMPANY: Acoustic Energy
URL: www.acoustic-energy.co.uk

If you're looking for a high-quality but reasonably priced speaker system to use with your computer, the Aego M is tough to beat. It features tiny, metal-alloy satellites and a wood-enclosed subwoofer—with amplifiers providing 90 watts of total power—that are as attractive and well-built as those of any computer speaker system we've seen. Even the included cables for the speakers and for connecting multiple audio sources are of high quality (they're also conveniently long). But the Aego M's sound quality is even more impressive—perhaps the best we've heard in this price range. If you have an iPod, the Aego M is still a good value after you add the cost of an iPod dock and a remote (macworld.com/3114).



VMware Fusion 1.0

RATING: ●●●● **PRICE:** $80
COMPANY: VMware **URL:** www.vmware.com



Like Parallels Desktop, VMware Fusion 1.0 allows you to run many versions of Windows and other operating systems from within Mac OS X. And unlike Boot Camp, it doesn't make you log out and restart in order to use it. Fusion supports more than 60 operating systems: Windows coverage extends from version 3.1 to betas of Windows Server 2008 (also known as Longhorn). If Linux is your cup of tea, you'll find support for Red Hat, Ubuntu, SUSE, Mandrake, and more. You can also install Novell NetWare, Solaris 9 or 10, FreeBSD, and even MS-DOS systems. Fusion is easy, fast, stable, and very well thought out. Its game support doesn't match that of Parallels, but if you're serious about gaming in Windows, you're not going to be using either of these programs. Fusion has a low impact on other OS X applications, support for multiple virtual CPUs, and a huge library of virtual appliances (macworld.com/3116).

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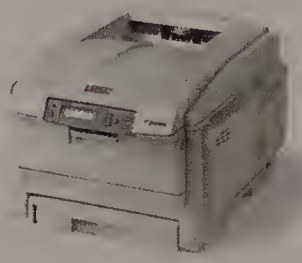
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Top Products

Your guide to the best hardware we've tested. See more at macworld.com/reviews.

PRINTERS

LASER PRINTER
C6100dn



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½
PRICE: $759
COMPANY: Oki Data
URL: www.okidata.com

The C6100dn, from Oki Data, produces great-looking prints and includes built-in duplexing. It also offers easy network connectivity and quick printing speeds (macworld.com/1670).

INK-JET PHOTO PRINTER
Pixma iP6700D



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½
PRICE: $130
COMPANY: Canon
URL: www.canon.com

The Canon Pixma iP6700D prints excellent-quality photos comparable to those developed in a lab. Its ease of use ensures that veteran photographers won't miss the long days they spent in a darkroom (macworld.com/2700).

COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER
PictureMate Zoom PM 290



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½ **PRICE:** $200
COMPANY: Epson America
URL: www.epson.com

NEW Affordable, problem-free, and fun to use, the PictureMate Zoom is the best and fastest portable photo printer you can currently buy (macworld.com/3102).

MULTIFUNCTION INK-JET
Photosmart C7180



RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $275
COMPANY: Hewlett-Packard
URL: www.hp.com

The HP Photosmart C7180's features, connection options, and solid print and scan quality make it an excellent ink-jet MFP (macworld.com/2475).

MULTIFUNCTION LASER
AcuLaser CX11NF



RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $624
COMPANY: Epson America
URL: www.epson.com

This device has it all: it's a color laser printer, a sheet-fed scanner, a copier with networking capabilities, and a fax machine (macworld.com/1669).

FLATBED SCANNER
Perfection V700 Photo



RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $456
COMPANY: Epson America
URL: www.epson.com

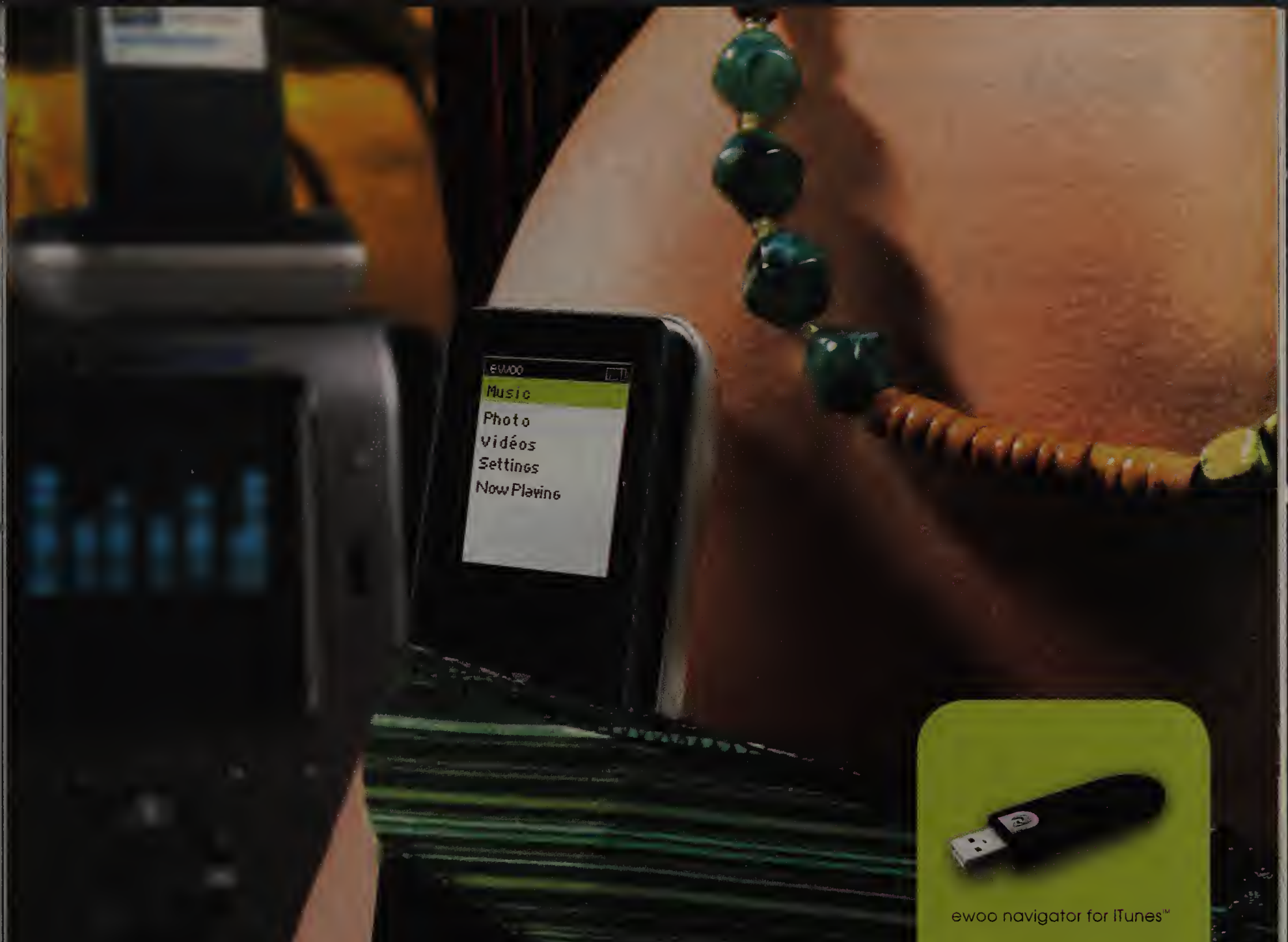
The Epson Perfection V700 Photo is an excellent midrange scanner for people who need to scan both reflective media and transparencies, espe-

MACS

PRODUCT	PROCESSOR	RATING	PRICE[A]	DISPLAY	SPEEDMARK 4.5 SCORE[B]	FIND CODE[C]
DESKTOP						
iMac	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	♦♦♦♦	$1,129	20 inches	257	3029
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	♦♦♦♦	$1,470	20 inches	280	3028
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$1,750	24 inches	279	3027
Mac mini	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	♦♦♦♦	$599	not included	195	3030
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	♦♦♦♦	$794	not included	210	3031
Mac Pro	Intel Xeon/ two dual-core 2.66GHz	♦♦♦♦	$2,248	not included	299	2489
PORTABLE						
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$1,000	13 inches	192	2863
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$1,200	13 inches	195	2864
	Intel Core 2 Duo/ 2.16GHz (black)	♦♦♦♦½	$1,380	13 inches	202	2865
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.2GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$1,900	15 inches	220	2932
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$2,360	15 inches	234	2933
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	♦♦♦♦½	$2,399	17 inches	237	2934

[A] From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of September 28, 2007. [B] Speedmark 4.5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark. [C] Typing in find codes after macworld.com/ directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/2489 contains an overview of the 2.66GHz Mac Pro.

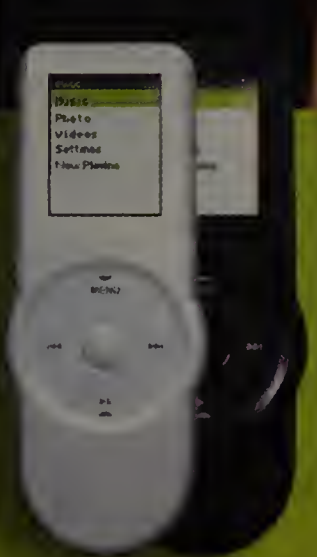
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cially at high resolutions (macworld.com/1519).

DIGITAL CAMERAS

DIGITAL SLR

D40



RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $491
COMPANY: Nikon
URL: www.nikonusa.com

The Nikon D40 is a great value. This 6.1-megapixel camera comes with every feature you'd desire in a DSLR, such as adjustable ISO, Raw mode, and a variety of image-processing features (macworld.com/2498).

COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA

NV11



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½
PRICE: $270
COMPANY: Samsung
URL: www.samsung.com

NEW An excellent all-around camera, the Samsung NV11 is equally accommodating of beginners and advanced shutterbugs (macworld.com/2984).

MINIDV CAMCORDER

PV-GS320



RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $379
COMPANY: Panasonic **URL:** www.panasonic.com

Compared with other 3-CCD MiniDV camcorders, the Panasonic PV-GS320 is a bargain. And it's a good choice for people who want a camcorder that shoots high-quality video and still images for half the cost of a high definition device (macworld.com/2701).

LCD MONITORS

LARGE DISPLAY

LP2465

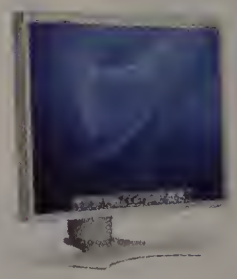


RATING: ♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $1,567
COMPANY: Hewlett-Packard
URL: www.hp.com

The LP2465 is an affordable and flexible 24-inch desktop LCD with a 16:10 wide-screen aspect ratio that immediately calls to mind the cinema (macworld.com/2508)

MEDIUM DISPLAY

MultiSync 2190UXi



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½
PRICE: $1,049
COMPANY: NEC
URL: www.necdisplay.com

The 21-inch NEC MultiSync 2190UXi does not come cheap, but it offers vivid and accurate colors, as well as a wide viewing angle (macworld.com/1445).

DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

d2 DVD+/-RW with LightScribe



RATING: ♦♦♦♦½
PRICE: $140
COMPANY: LaCie
URL: www.lacie.com

NEW Speedy and versatile, the LaCie d2 external rewritable drive has the added bonus of being able to burn LightScribe images—a cool disc-labeling technology (macworld.com/2263).

FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES

DESKTOP DRIVE

G-Drive Q 500GB



RATING: ♦♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $244
COMPANY: G-Technology
URL: www.g-technology.com

The G-Drive Q SATA hard drive has nearly every type of connection you could want. It operates without a fan, so it's very quiet—you hear only the occasional spin of the drive (macworld.com/1622).

PORTABLE DRIVE

Rocbit 2B



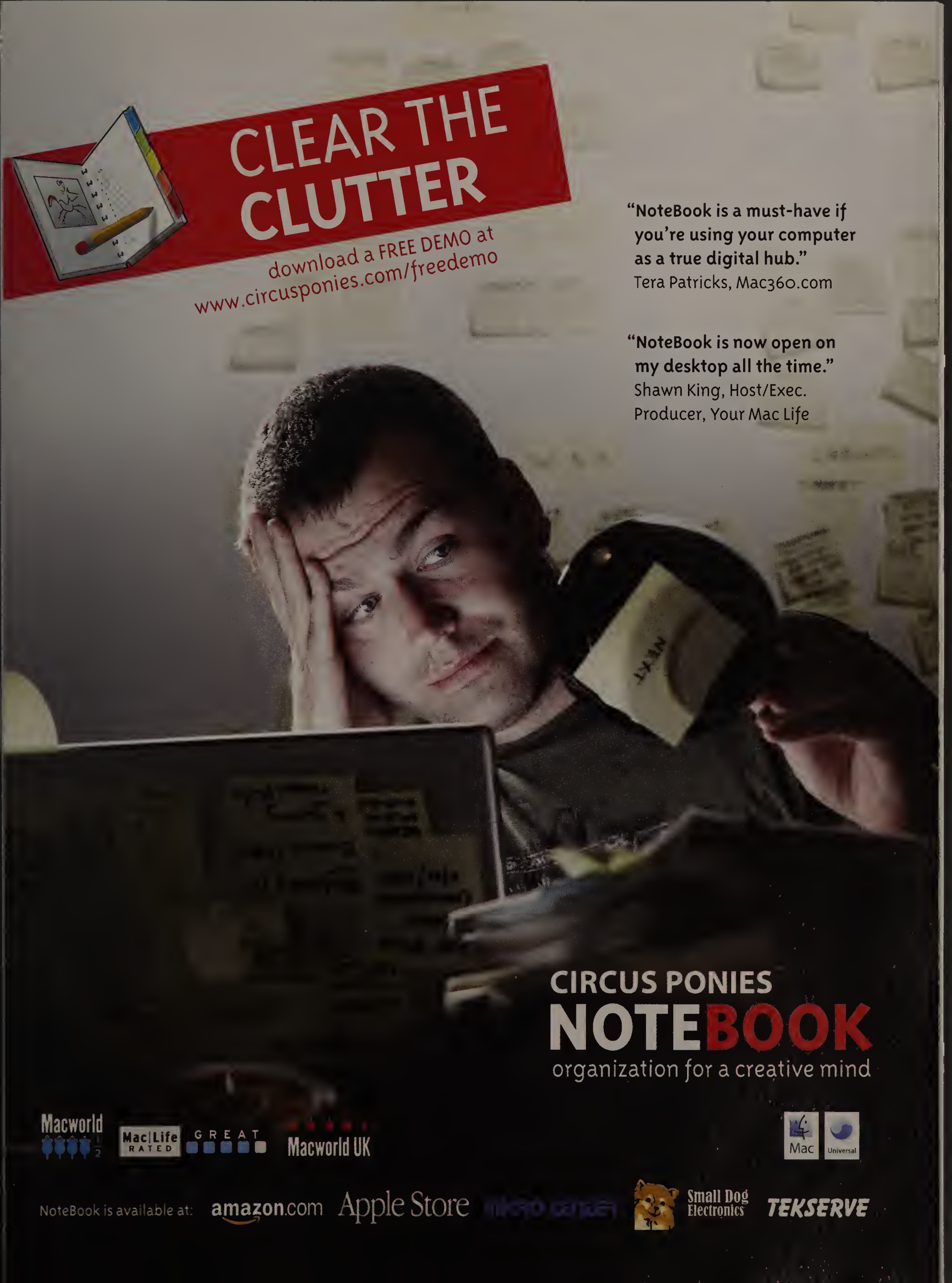
RATING: ♦♦♦♦♦
PRICE: $189
COMPANY: Rocsecure **URL:** www.rocsecure.com

The Rocbit 2B is a fast and pleasantly quiet portable hard drive featuring real-time encryption. It's well worth its cost if security is a concern (macworld.com/1443).

iPODS

PRODUCT	CAPACITY	RATING	PRICE[A]	DISPLAY	BATTERY LIFE	MEDIA SUPPORTED	FIND CODE[B]
iPod classic	80GB	♦♦♦♦	$243	2.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	3090
iPod classic	160GB	♦♦♦♦	$344	2.5-inch color	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	3091
iPod touch	8GB	♦♦♦	$294	3.5-inch color	22 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video	3092
iPod touch	16GB	♦♦♦	$399	3.5-inch color	22 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video	3093
iPod nano	4GB	♦♦♦♦½	$144	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	3094
iPod nano	8GB	♦♦♦♦½	$192	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	3095
iPod shuffle	1GB	♦♦♦♦	$72	none	12 hours of music playback	Music	2238

[A] From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of September 28, 2007. [B] Typing in find codes after macworld.com/ directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/2233 contains an overview of the 30GB video iPod.


CLEAR THE CLUTTER
download a FREE DEMO at
www.circusponies.com/freedemo
"NoteBook is a must-have if you're using your computer as a true digital hub."
Tera Patricks, Mac360.com
"NoteBook is now open on my desktop all the time."
Shawn King, Host/Exec. Producer, Your Mac Life
CIRCUS PONIES
NOTEBOOK
organization for a creative mind
Macworld
Mac|Life RATED
GREAT
Macworld UK
Mac
Universal
NoteBook is available at:
amazon.com
Apple Store
Small Dog Electronics
TEKSERVE

Mac Gems

Get more and expanded reviews at macworld.com/macgems **BY DAN FRAKES**



Screenshot Helper Sharpshooter lets you name screenshots as you take them.

UTILITY

Sharpshooter 0.4.1

RATING: ★★★½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Isaac Wankerl **URL:** macworld.com/3139

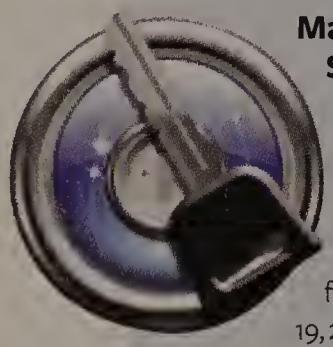
I hear two major complaints about Mac OS X's built-in screenshot features. First, OS X doesn't provide a way to change the file format or location. Second, unlike Snapz Pro X (★★★★★; macworld.com/1672), it doesn't let you provide useful names for your screenshot files on-the-fly; they end up on your hard drive as Picture 1, Picture 2, Picture 3, and so on.

Check out macworld.com/1395 for solutions to the first gripe; for the second, you'll want Sharpshooter. This nifty utility watches the location to which you save screenshots; when it detects a new screenshot, it displays a dialog box that includes a preview and several options. Type a new name and click on Rename to rename the image file immediately. A Move To Trash button, combined with the in-window preview, is useful for spotting and deleting obvious mistakes.

Sharpshooter recognizes if you've changed the default screenshot format and destination. It also doesn't interfere with other screenshot programs.

Another nice touch: if you've got more than one display connected to your Mac, OS X's screenshot feature creates a separate image for each display; Sharpshooter recognizes this and presents a separate renaming window for each image.

Sharpshooter currently supports only image files with the *.jpeg*, *.jpg*, *.pdf*, *.png*, *.tif*, and *.tiff* extensions. Occasionally Sharpshooter wouldn't recognize new screenshots; quitting and relaunching it fixed this problem. But overall, it's a handy tool that works well.



Mac Gems Special Offer

The makers of the Mac Gem 1Passwd (★★★★½; August 2007) are offering this $30 utility to *Macworld* readers for free through December 19, 2007. For more information, visit macworld.com/3125.

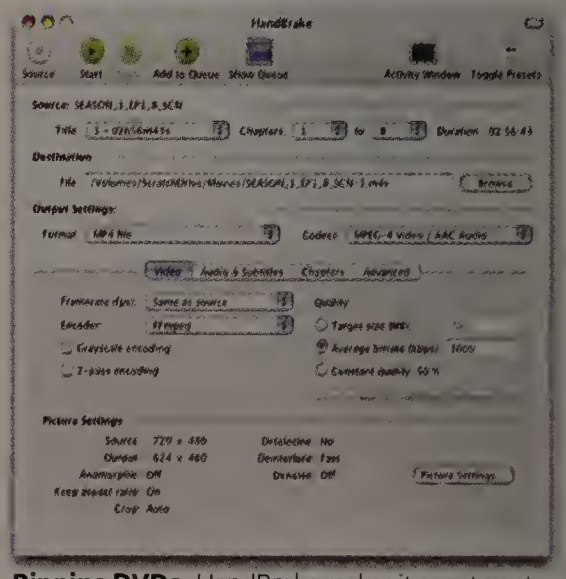
VIDEO

HandBrake 0.9.0

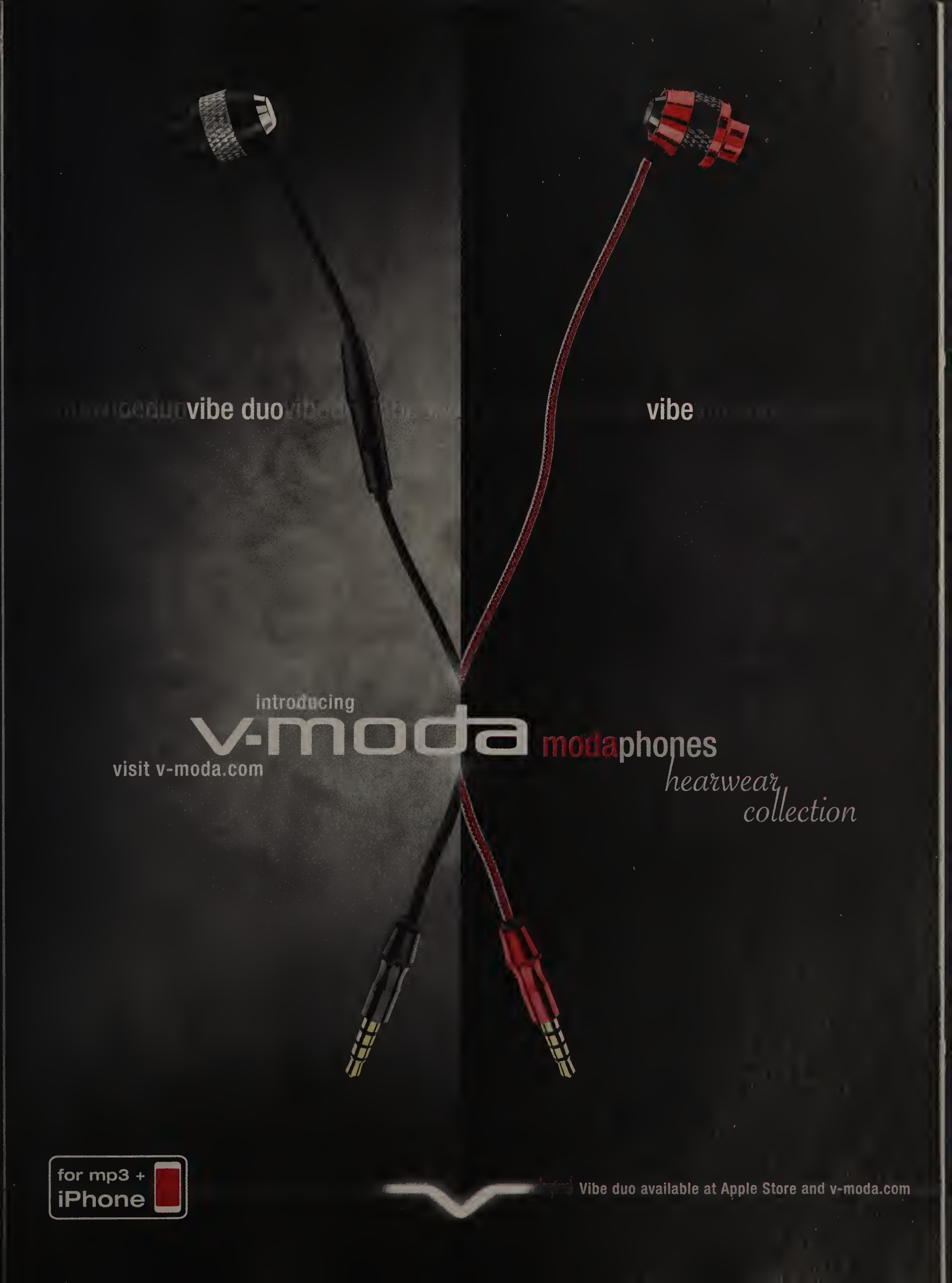
RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Open-source project **URL:** macworld.com/2468

These days, there's more demand than ever for a way to convert your DVDs to movie files playable on Apple's various gadgets. The problem is that commercial DVDs are copy protected, so you can't rip them in iTunes as you can a music CD. (I'm talking about movies you actually own, by the way.) You need a special tool that removes this copy protection as it extracts the video content; if that tool can also convert the video to a format suitable for playback, that's even better.

HandBrake 0.9.0 is just such a program. When you first launch HandBrake, you'll see Mac OS X's Open dialog box. To convert a DVD, simply select the DVD itself; after a quick scan, HandBrake will display its main screen, where you choose your conversion options. Via the Title pop-up menu, you choose the section of the DVD to convert; for movies, this will generally be the entry with the longest running time. Choose a name for the resulting video file; choose



Ripping DVDs HandBrake makes it easy to get DVDs onto your iPhone, iPod, Apple TV, or Mac.


vibe duo
vibe
introducing
v-moda
modaphones
hearwear collection
visit v-moda.com
for mp3 + iPhone
Vibe duo available at Apple Store and v-moda.com

the appropriate playback device (Apple TV, iPhone, or iPod, for example) from HandBrake's Presets drawer; and then click on the green Start button.

After a long wait—one of the downsides of video conversion—you'll have an MPEG-4 video file you can drag into iTunes for watching or for syncing with your favorite playback device. The quality of video converted using HandBrake's device presets is very good.

Advanced users can customize their conversion settings for size, quality, or file format. There are also useful settings for deinterlacing, MP4 chapter markers, and anamorphic formatting (capturing wide-screen content at a non–wide-screen aspect ratio). You can also save your favorite settings as a preset.

The queue feature is useful for DVDs of TV shows. You name each episode on the DVD and click on the Add To Queue button; click on Start, and HandBrake will rip all the episodes at once, each to a different video file. (Note that some recent DVDs incorporate a new technology to prevent ripping; for more information, visit macworld.com/3104.)

HandBrake's not the only method for getting your DVDs into a format that will play on digital devices, but it's the easiest.

GAME

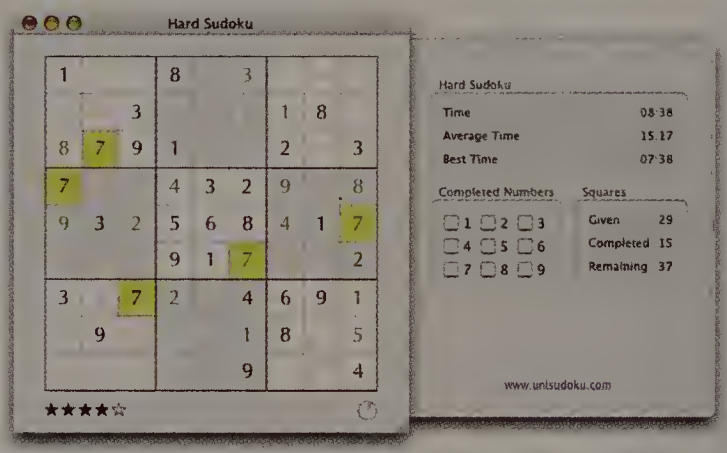
UniSudoku 1.7

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $15 **COMPANY:** David Ross Software **URL:** www.unisudoku.com

There are plenty of ways to play Sudoku on your Mac, but few come close to replicating a Sudoku puzzle in your Sunday paper or in a puzzle book. UniSudoku comes the closest, because of its excellent game play and because it holds true to the experience of playing real Sudoku.

UniSudoku offers puzzles at six difficulty levels, as well as an option to manually enter a puzzle you've found elsewhere (for example, the newspaper). As you move your cursor over a square on the UniSudoku board, a tiny grid of grayed-out numbers appears; click on a number and it changes color to indicate that it's a "possible" for that square. Move the cursor out of the square and only the possibles remain.

UniSudoku includes a number of useful features for solving puzzles. On the convenience side, you can quickly highlight all given or solved instances of a particular number—for example, to see where all the sevens are. The program also lets you rotate the



Electronic Sudoku If you're looking for a great electronic Sudoku game, UniSudoku is the perfect solution.



entire puzzle, and offers unlimited undo and redo.

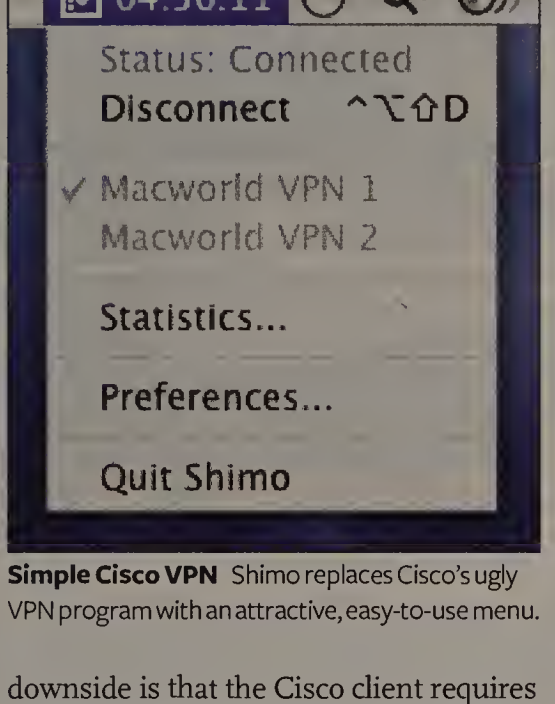
On the help side, UniSudoku can flag incorrect answers and update the possibles for every square automatically. You can customize UniSudoku's colors, and options include a puzzle timer and a sidebar that displays statistics about times and the current puzzle. You can even print the puzzles if you want to do them the old-fashioned way.

NETWORKING

Shimo 1.0.3

RATING: ⬆⬆⬆⬆ **PRICE:** payment requested
COMPANY: NexUmoja **URL:** macworld.com/3140

Mac OS X's built-in VPN (virtual private network) client is a pretty good one: it's easy to set up and its menu-bar menu makes connecting and disconnecting convenient—unless your company uses a Cisco VPN, in which case OS X's VPN client is often unreliable. The solution is to install Cisco's own VPN client, which provides quick, stable connections. The downside is that the Cisco client requires the launch of a separate, ugly program that needs to be running whenever you're connected.



Simple Cisco VPN Shimo replaces Cisco's ugly VPN program with an attractive, easy-to-use menu.

If you miss OS X's menu bar when connecting to Cisco VPNs, Shimo 1.0.3 is the solution. You still must have Cisco's client installed and configured, but after setup, you can ignore the Cisco program and use Shimo's menu-bar menu to connect to and disconnect from each configured VPN quickly (you can also assign keyboard shortcuts to these items).

Shimo can automatically reconnect whenever your Mac loses the VPN connection and can connect to a specific VPN whenever it detects a particular wireless network or network location. Shimo can also display your connection time in the menu bar, and can notify you of connections, disconnections, errors, and general information messages (notifications can include AppleScripts).

Shimo's developer doesn't include any documentation, nor is detailed information available from its Web site. Still, Shimo is a great utility for those of us forced to use Cisco's inelegant—but functional—VPN client.

Dan Frakes is a senior editor at *Macworld* and the senior reviews editor at Playlistmag.com. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.





Ready to expand your horizons and unlock the secrets of personal productivity while rediscovering the legacy of the ancients? It's not Pyramid power, it's MacMania 8! While the sands of time swirl about, join kindred spirits in exploring the mysteries of the iPhone, customizing your media use for travel, optimizing your digital memory legacy, and organizing and systematizing your Mac work routine. Fabulous destinations await you: Egypt, Santorini, Olympia, Pompei, and more. . .

Delve into our monumental program and get the expert opinions of David Pogue. In a "show me" state of mind? Get the inside scoop on iLife and iWork from iJanet Hill. And just before documents, email, and concurrent events overwhelm us, Merlin Mann bootcamps Mac productivity and workflow.

Join us on MacMania 8 on Costa Cruise Line's m.s. Atlantica, sailing round-trip Genoa, Italy Nov. 5–15, 2008.

Visit **InSightCruises.com/Mac8** or call **650-787-5665** for full details.

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FOR YOUR JOB OR HOME OFFICE

iWork '08
Speaker: **Janet Hill**

Improved newsletters, smarter presentations, and now spreadsheets. Suddenly work doesn't feel quite so much like work!

Pages '08 ••• Stationery, newsletters, resumes, brochures, reports, proposals, business cards—whatever you write, Pages '08 offers an intuitive way to create beautiful, media-rich documents using impressive features you know how to use right away.

Keynote '08 ••• Amaze your audience with cinema-quality presentations that are easier than ever to create. Use the new features in Keynote '08—the latest version of Apple's powerful presentation software—to tell your story effectively and dramatically.

Numbers '08 ••• Introducing Numbers '08, the spreadsheet you've been waiting for—and already know how to use. Innovative, powerful, and intuitive, Numbers '08 lets you do everything from setting up your family budget to completing a lab report to creating detailed financial documents.

Inbox Zero
Speaker: **Merlin Mann**

Learn the skills and attitude you need to conquer high-volume email! Targeting productivity and sanity in equal parts, Merlin keys you in to the attitudes, tools, and behaviors that are critical to surviving in the age of high-volume, ubiquitous email.

- Why your old email habits won't work today
- The five and (only five) things you can do about any email message
- Strategies for processing email faster and quickly converting messages into *actian*
- Using filters and rules to automate repetitive work
- Meet your new best friend: *the delete key*
- How to run an *email dash*
- How and when to *turn email off* (and for how long)

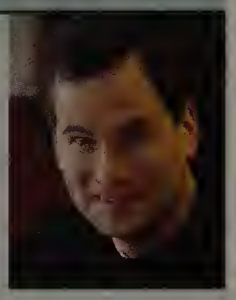
KEYNOTE

What's Left in User Interfaces?
Speaker: **Bebo White**

Do you wonder what the Mac or iPhone interface might look like in 10–12 years? How much more interactive or *rich* can we expect device interfaces to become? Bebo will discuss some of the current research in human-computer interfaces and interaction models and speculate on some of the things we might see (and be able to do) with our personal and work devices in the next decade.

GADGETS

iPhone: The Missing Manual
Speaker: **David Pogue**



The iPhone took three years to develop, is covered by over 200 patents, and is called "revolutionary" by Apple. It's an iPod, a cellphone, and a wireless touchscreen Internet terminal.

David Pogue, New York Times tech columnist and author of *iPhane: The Missing Manual*, will take you through the very latest developments concerning the iPhone, its features, its hidden powers, and its backdoors.

Useful Mac Gadgets For Under $50 (and Worth far More)
Speaker: **Randal Schwartz**

What tools would a connoisseur of Mac freebies actually spend money on? Get the lowdown on Randal's cherished set of utilities and daily-use applications that are all under $50, and which he says are darn well worth the money. You'll review Randal's favorites and get his usage hints on how you can harness these nifty "gadgets" for better productivity.

Useful Mac Gadgets—Free!
Speaker: **Randal Schwartz**

Take a look at Randal Schwartz' carefully selected trove of over 200 "free" downloads snared by watching VersionTracker and MacUpdate and a few other sources. Learn about the best of the lot, why and how Randal selected them, and how these freebies can help you do that thing you do.

Living on the Road: How TiVo and Slingbox Save My Life and Can Save Yours, Too
Speaker: **Randal Schwartz**

Randal won't admit to being addicted to TV, but he does have a TiVo, and well, there are shows that he insists on watching on a regular basis (like Stargate Atlantis and reruns of Everybody Loves Raymond). Given extensive exposure to the horrible programming on hotel cable TV, Randal was inspired to connect to his preferred diet of home TV offerings from the road. Learn how he beefed up his TiVo to hold more things at home, and added a Slingbox to bring his home TV experience to anywhere in the world where he can get broadband. Fear not. Take a listen and never be forced to watch mediocre TV in a hotel room again.



PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY

Extreme Googling
Speaker: **David Pogue**

So you thought Google was just a Web search page? You ain't seen nothin' yet. David Pogue, who won an Emmy for his CBS News profile of Google, will unveil the Google you never knew. It's a white pages, yellow pages, calculator, aircraft database, driving map, package tracker, auto database, barcode translator, stock ticker, and much more. He'll explain all—and also take you on a tour of what's cooking in Google Labs.

Becoming a "Black Belt Googler"
Speaker: **Bebo White**

In June 2006, the Oxford English Dictionary, the authority on the English language, officially accepted "Google" as a verb. It logically follows, then, that "Googling" can be recognized as a skill. In this session you'll learn how to be an "expert 'Googler'" by writing search queries that take full advantage of Google's input logic and optimize your chances of finding exactly what you want quickly and efficiently. You'll test your searching skills with a variety of logic problems and puzzles and trivia contests complete with prizes and awards for the best "Googlers."

The iPhone and Your Road Life
Speaker: **Randal Schwartz**

Wondering how to optimally integrate iPhone's features into your road life? Here's a case study for you. Randal Schwartz, who travels 30 weeks per year, every year, shows you how he quickly implemented his iPhone as a hub of his travelling lifestyle. What's more, you'll learn how to bring iPhone features and functionality together to better support your road life.

Practicing Advanced Productivity Workflow
Speaker: **Merlin Mann**

Transcend from power user to deadly ninja with an action-oriented Mac system. Merlin gives you an advanced look at specific apps for getting organized and productive on your Mac—with a heavy focus on implementation of an integrated Mail and Action management system.

- Mail Tags and Mail Act-on
- Quicksilver triggers and gestures
- OmniFocus for task management
- customizing around how you work (and how you think)
- the secret lives of "life hacks"

Mac Productivity Bootcamp
Speaker: **Merlin Mann**

Ready to learn the applications, Preference Panes, scripts, and hacks that can shave an hour off every day?

The Mac has always had its share of time-savers and time-wasters (anyone remember "Talking Moose"?). But since the introduction of OS X in 2001, we've seen an explosion in the creation of smart tools for increasing productivity and using our Macs more efficiently. We'll look at a few of the *very best chunks of functionality you can put on your Mac,* and how to use them to start saving time, starting today.

- application launchers like Quicksilver
- key-shaving helpers like TextExpander
- auto-organizers like Hazel
- Finder enhancements like PathFinder
- distraction-beaters like Spirited Away

Do it Fast- Quicksiiver Fast!
Speaker: **Merlin Mann**

You'll learn how to get started with the application that's changing how people use their Macs.

Quicksilver has done nothing short of revolutionizing the way Mac power users are living in OS X. Much more than a simple app launcher, Quicksilver is an emerging framework that creates a unified GUI for accessing and manipulating practically any kind of information on your Mac.

- basics of setup
- learning the panes
- the power of the "functional sentence"
- how Quicksilver learns from *you*
- sample uses, easily moving information around

One-Finger Automation Tricks in Leopard
Speaker: **Sal Soghoian**

Automation is everywhere in Leopard, with a dramatically improved easier-to-use Automator and a more powerful AppleScript leading the way. Learn how to use these free tools in creative ways:

- create professional-sounding voice tracks for presentations and podcasts without ever speaking a word!
- publish your Aperture images to the Internet, optimized and organized for viewing on an iPhone
- create an automatically updated photo blog using iWeb and your iPhone
- add a full-screen Cover Flow view to your Finder windows!

YOUR DIGITAL ART LIFE

Digital Photo Workflow: Shoot and Edit Like a Pro!
Speaker: **Lesa King**

How do you capture and translate *the sight* that motivated you to *snap it* into a memorable photo? Whether you're using a digital SLR or a point-and-shoot, you'll learn the pros' techniques for getting better shots in camera and their disciplined approach to expressing creativity. Learn how to use photo effects including soft vignettes, collages, partial color, gorgeous grayscale, select retouching, and more to enhance your digital images.

From Snapshot to Art
Speaker: **Lesa King**

What story is your photo telling? Explore the many ways of accentuating the subject matter and topic of a photo, drawing the viewer's eye and creating context. Lesa will give her perspective on partial color effects, picture within a picture, turning a photo into a pencil sketch, selective blur effects, creative vignettes, and more!

How to Handle 1000 Photos a Day (and Publish 300 of Them)
Speaker: **Randal Schwartz**

Take a lot of photos when you travel? Would you like to minimize the work of polishing and "publishing" while maximizing your artistic exposure? Learn how to manage this kind of work flow when it's not part of your "day job". Randal will tap his experience with major photo throughput and will show you how to use various tools, including Aperture, FlickrExporter, Google Earth, and the Flickr interface to share your best digital photos.



Selected Bits o' Retouching Wisdom
Speaker: **Lesa King**

Retouch photos like a pro with these simple yet powerful techniques. Selective skin softening and sharpening, blemish and bag banishing, teeth whitening, and color cast zapping.

Organizing Your "Digital Memories"
Speaker: **Bebo White**

Photographs and photo albums (and the memories they relate) are high up on many people's lists of cherished items. But how much information do you remember about your photographs? When and where was it taken? Who are all these people? What were the surrounding circumstances? How might all this personal "memory keeping" change when so many of our memories are digital multimedia? Will CDs be saved instead of photo albums? In this session you'll learn how to efficiently combine digital photos, video, scanned documents, and memory narration using widely available (usually free) applications, and simple processes and methods. The results will be priceless records of special events and personal history sure to be treasured and understood in context by you and your family. We'll start right away with your memories of this cruise!



iLOVE MAC's iLIFE

iLife '08
Speaker: **Janet Hill**

Discover new ways to enjoy photos, create movies, make music, podcasts, websites, and more with iLife '08.

iPhoto '08 ••• Getting into digital photography? Learn how to make jumbo prints, edit and enhance your photos, and publish your photos to the web. We'll also demonstrate how easy it is to organize and share your photos, by creating a Photocast album.

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iMovie '08 ••• In this session, you'll learn how to create your own digital video masterpieces to put on your shelf next to the Hollywood blockbusters. We'll show you how to edit your digital footage in iMovie using several of its innovative tools.

GarageBand '08 ••• Learn how GarageBand can take you from the recording studio to the radio booth. Not only can you compose and record music directly into your Mac, now you can also create and record podcasts with or without music and post them on the web. No music or broadcasting experience required.

iWeb '08 ••• You're ready to take your website, blog, or podcast to the next level. With iWeb, create web sites and blogs complete with podcasts, photos, and movies. When it's time to take your podcasts live, iWeb makes it quick and simple.

iDVD '08 ••• Learn how easy it is to create dazzling DVDs, now in widescreen format. Choose a theme, add movies and photos, and voila! Burn a DVD with one click.

iPod Evolution

Apple's updated classic, redesigned nano, and all-new touch iPods offer something for everyone. **But which is right for you?**

By Christopher Breen and Dan Frakes



Apple's iPod line has come a long way since the company's boxy 5GB model hit the market in late 2001. In the years since, Apple has added more substance, style, and storage to its portable music (and now video) players. Recently, Apple updated the full-size iPod model, now called the iPod classic; redesigned the iPod nano; and introduced the iPod touch, a brand-new touch-screen model based on the popular iPhone design. We've put all these new iPods through their paces and reviewed them here—plus we help you decide which iPod best suits your needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

iPod Classic & Third-Generation iPod Nano



With the recent updates to Apple's nano and full-size iPods—the latter now called the iPod classic—the two lines have never been more similar. While the classic's hardware has seen mainly a visual makeover and a boost in storage capacity over its predecessor, Apple radically redesigned the nano as essentially a smaller version of the classic. And both models have a brand-new on-screen interface.

Size Differences

The previous nano and the 5G iPod looked very different from each other, but the new versions meet somewhere in the middle. Each has an anodized-metal face like the previous nano's, with a shiny metal back like those of the previous full-size iPods. The classic is available with a silver or black face; the nano comes in a 4GB silver model or an 8GB in silver, black, light blue, light green, or red. Although this aesthetic change unifies the look of the lineup, it also means that the new nano isn't nearly as rugged as its predecessor—the shiny back scratches and smudges easily.

Other than the new finishes, the most immediately noticeable change in the two models is their size (although in different senses of the word). Both of the classic models are exactly the same height and width as their 5G predecessors and only slightly thinner, but their storage capacities have grown immensely. They provide 80GB and 160GB of storage—enough, by Apple's estimates, for 20,000 or 40,000 songs, respectively—at the same prices as their 30GB and 80GB predecessors.

The new iPod nano, on the other hand, comes in the same storage capacities as before but has undergone a complete redesign. Instead of being tall (3.5 inches high) and narrow (1.6 inches wide), the new model is a squatter shape (2.8 inches high by 2.1 inches wide). If you're familiar with the previous nano, the new shape may look odd at first—but it looks much better in person than it does in pictures. The only real drawback is that the nano's Click Wheel is now thinner and thus requires a bit more precision when you're scrolling through long lists.

The classic's capacity has grown, and the nano has undergone a complete redesign.

The Classic Updated

Apart from its altered appearance and increased storage capacity, the iPod classic's hardware remains largely unchanged from that of the 5G iPod line. It sports the same 2.5-inch screen, the same general features, and the same connections.

There are two notable changes, however. First, Apple has done away with the AV-capable headphone jack found in the 5G iPods, leaving all video output to the classic's dock-connector port. Second, although most dock-connector accessories made for the 5G iPod work with the classic, Apple has made changes to the video-output capabilities of the dock-connector port that render most third-party *video* accessories incompatible. It's unfortunate that many of the expensive accessories you may already own won't work. (Apple offers its own composite and component AV cables, each with an AC adapter, for $49.)

The classic's on-screen interface is dramatically revamped (see "Common Interface"). In addition, the classic supports new games, and includes three of these—Vortex, iQuiz, and Klondike. The downside is that any games you purchased for a 5G iPod won't work on the classic.

The Nano Revamped

The main reason for the nano's wider shape is to accommodate a significantly larger screen: 2 inches (diagonally measured) instead of 1.5 inches. The nano also gains the ability to display video, just like the iPod classic. (Both models support MPEG-4 and H.264 videos at resolutions up to 640 by 480 pixels.) This new 320-by-240-pixel screen is impressively bright and clear, and has the highest pixel density of any piece of hardware Apple has sold; despite the screen's 2-inch size, video is quite watchable, although if you plan on viewing it for long stretches, the iPod classic and touch are better options.

Buying a nano previously meant sacrificing features (compared to a full-size iPod's) in favor of a smaller player. But the new nano has gained every major feature of the iPod classic. In addition to video playback, you get video output via the dock-connector port and even support for high-quality games (it also includes Vortex, iQuiz, and Klondike). Unfortunately, the nano suffers from the same limitations as the classic with respect to third-party video accessories and 5G iPod games.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE



In other words, the new nano is effectively a scaled-down version of the iPod classic. The main differences between the two devices are physical size and storage capacity; the nano also offers the skip-free performance of flash memory (rather than a hard drive as in the classic).

Common Interface

Both new iPod models also have a completely revamped on-screen interface. Although basic menu navigation hasn't changed, the look of those menus has. For example, whenever you select Music, Videos, or Photos on the main menu, the screen is split in half, with the right side displaying a panning and zooming preview of items in that category (album covers, video frames, or photos, respectively). This split view continues within each category as you browse submenus, until you get to item listings: the Playlists screen lists each playlist, along with the number of tracks it contains; the Albums and Audiobooks screens list the items of that type, each with a small cover image to its left; and the Songs screen lists each song, with the name of the artist below it. The additional information provided by these new menus makes finding content easier, although if you have a large music library, the two-line-per-track Songs list takes longer to scroll through.

The new iPod software also includes a version of iTunes' Cover Flow feature. Select this item from the Music menu, and you can use the Click Wheel to cycle through the album covers for your music tracks. When you find the album you want, clicking on the Center button brings up a list of tracks for that album; you simply select a track to begin playback. Although it looks great, Cover Flow is slower on the new iPods than in iTunes, and is more visually interesting than useful.

Few aspects of the interface have gone untouched. For example, you no longer have to navigate up several levels to the main menu and then down to the Settings menu just to change shuffle mode; instead, while listening, you simply press the Center button three times to bring up the shuffle settings. The Playlists menu now reflects the folder and playlist hierarchy you've

Which iPod Is Right for You?

These days, you can buy iPods based not only on your budget but also on your intended use—the perfect iPod for the car, the gym, or extended plane rides, for example. How do these models break out? Let us be your guide.

Cheap and Portable

The iPod shuffle, Apple's least-expensive iPod, is tempting for several reasons. At $79 it's affordable enough that you won't feel like you've lost your best friend if you lose it or put it through the wash.

The shuffle is the perfect iPod to take to the gym as it won't weigh you down, clips easily to clothing, and can stand up to a reasonable amount of physical abuse.

Small and Powerful

The 3G iPod nano has a lot going for it—a reasonable price, all the features of the full-size (and higher-capacity) iPod classic, and a colorful, compact form. Unless you require more storage (in which case, go for the iPod classic) or a bigger display for extended video-watching (choose an iPod classic or touch), this is the iPod to own.

Capacious Capacity

You care desperately about the quality of the music going onto your iPod and are willing to consume large amounts of storage space to achieve that quality. Or you just can't leave home without *all* the music in your iTunes library. Or during a long trip you plan to catch up on the last three seasons of *Lost* on a screen large enough so that your eyes won't bug out after three hours of viewing. If any of this describes you, an iPod classic is in your future.

Theater in Your Pocket

If you lack an iPhone but would like to enjoy an iPhone-like video experience, the iPod touch will get you most of the way there. Although its display isn't as bright as the iPhone's, it offers the same 3.5-inch (diagonally measured) screen, so you won't have to squint when you're watching TV shows and movies.

And then there's the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store. With the iPod touch in hand, you can preview and purchase music over a Wi-Fi connection, which, to my mind, is a modern miracle.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

set up in iTunes. An updated Now Playing screen looks much like the one you'll see on the Apple TV—except with a white background—and displays more information than before: artist, track, album, rating, and track number. And the various Extras and Settings have gained better-looking visuals and clearer messages.

Although the increased use of album art and previews throughout the new iPod interface makes for a better visual experience, it has some drawbacks. Most notably, overall menu navigation feels a bit slower than on previous iPods. An iPod software update, released soon after the new models came out, improved performance considerably, but navigation still isn't quite as fast as on older iPods. Much of the blame for this lies with the heavy use of album art; when we disabled the transfer of album art to the iPod and resynced with iTunes, the entire interface felt zippier.

iPod Nano and Classic Compared

Product	CAPACITY	RATING	PRICE	PROS	CONS
iPod nano	4GB	★★★★½	$149	All the features of the iPod classic—including video playback, video output, and games—in a smaller, less expensive, flash-memory–based player; bright, clear screen; very good sound quality; excellent battery life; improved user interface; includes three new games.	Incompatible with some existing dock-connector accessories; shiny back surface not as rugged as anodized metal of previous version; doesn't allow use of previously purchased games; limited Cover Flow performance; album art slows down new visuals-heavy interface.
iPod nano	8GB	★★★★½	$199		
iPod classic	80GB	★★★★	$249	Bright, clear screen; excellent battery life; improved user interface; includes three new games; sound as good as that of previous full-size iPod; attractively priced.	Interface slower than 5G iPod's; incompatible with many existing dock-connector accessories; doesn't allow use of previously purchased games; Cover Flow not terribly helpful.
iPod classic	160GB	★★★★	$349		

Performance

As is the case with most recent iPods, *Macworld*'s battery tests showed significantly longer life than Apple's published estimates. For example, Apple claims an iPod nano will play music continuously for 24 hours. Our nano played music nonstop for almost 30 hours. Similarly, Apple suggests that a 160GB iPod classic can play music for 40 hours straight. We squeezed out more than 52 hours of play time in our best-case testing (see "Battery Life: iPod Nano and Classic" for our complete results).

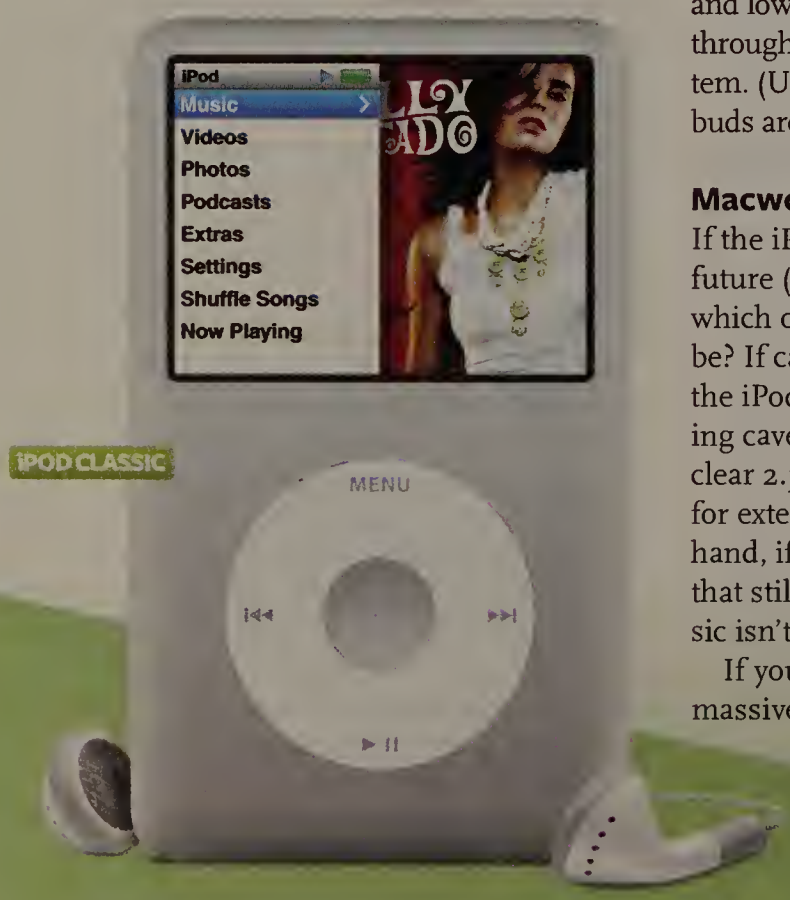
Most of the dock-connector accessories we tested with the new iPods worked as expected, although we ran into some exceptions. Besides the video-output accessories mentioned previously, Apple's Camera Connector and the FM transmitters that display the tuning frequency on the iPod's screen don't work.

The new iPods' audio performance is very good; both the nano and the classic resolve the differences between higher- and lower-quality audio files when played through a good headphone or stereo system. (Unfortunately, the included earbuds are still of only average quality.)

Macworld's Buying Advice

If the iPod touch isn't in your buying future (see our review on page 68), which of these updated iPods should be? If capacity is your prime concern, the iPod classic is the one to own, offering cavernous storage with a bright, clear 2.5-inch screen that you can watch for extended periods. On the other hand, if you've already got a 5G iPod that still has space remaining, the classic isn't terribly compelling.

If you don't need to carry around a massive audio and video library, and your video-watching sessions tend to be short, the new nano is in many ways the most appealing iPod to date. Apple has improved the 3G nano over its predecessor in almost every way, and the device, available for as little as $149, is now essentially a miniaturized version of the iPod classic. Although the new nano's shiny back surface scratches easily, it's tough to resist an iPod that gives you big iPod features such as video playback and output in a device not much bigger than a saltine cracker.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN AND DAN FRAKES



Macworld Lab Test

Battery Life: iPod Nano and Classic



Longer is better. Time is in hours:minutes. iPods were tested using iPod software version 1.0.1, with EQ and Sound Check off. Volume and screen brightness were set at 50 percent. Backlighting was set to turn off after 10 seconds. Audio files were a mix of AAC and MP3 files of varying lengths. Video tests were conducted with movies purchased from the iTunes Store. The movies were played repeatedly until the battery gave out.

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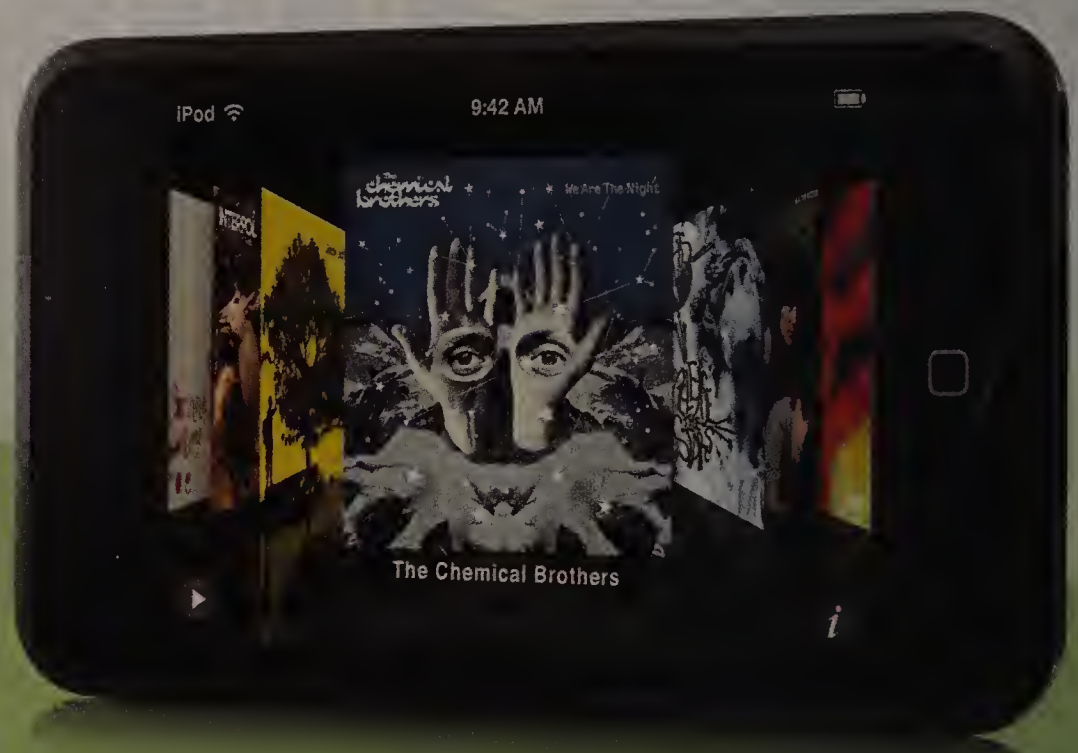
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iPod Touch

For those folks expecting a hybrid of the iPod and the iPhone, the iPod touch will come as a disappointment. But even setting those expectations aside, the iPod touch is an imperfect player—offering a somewhat arbitrary feature set, no physical or remote controls for adjusting volume or operating the player, very restricted video-output capabilities, and a display that's not as crisp or bright as that of the iPhone.



The Not-Quite-iPhone

An iPod it may be, but the touch's form factor, interface, and underlying architecture demand comparison with the iPhone rather than with a traditional iPod such as the new iPod classic and 3G iPod nano (see page 64 for our reviews). Like the iPhone, the iPod touch has a 3.5-inch (diagonally measured) glass touch-screen display—one that offers the same resolution of 480 by 320 pixels and the same pixel density of 163 pixels per inch (ppi). Rather than scrolling around the interface, you tap, pinch, and swipe, just as you do with an iPhone. You launch applications from a Home screen, and you turn the device on and off or put it to sleep with a switch mounted on the top of the iPod.

The audio port is located at the bottom of the player next to the dock-connector port and—thank goodness—it isn't recessed, which means you can use any pair of third-party headphones. The iPhone's recessed audio port (located on the top of the phone) requires an adapter for non-Apple headphones.

Unlike the iPhone, the iPod touch has no physical volume buttons, which is a problem. iPod owners are accustomed to adjusting volume and moving forward or back a track without having to retrieve the player from their pockets. Without buttons and without support for a remote control, this is impossible on the iPod touch. It's bad enough that the white earbuds let the world know you've got some kind of iPod in your pocket on an unsavory subway. What's worse is displaying that iPod to the world when you need to turn down the volume or jump to the next song (for more on the lack of controls, see "Looking for Better Control").

To give credit where it's due, Apple did provide a simple way to return to the Now Playing screen from anywhere in the interface. Just press the Home button twice in rapid succession, and a screen appears showing the title of the currently playing song along with a volume slider, Next and Previous buttons, and an offer to close the window or move to the Now Playing screen.

Both the iPhone and the touch include Wi-Fi, but their ability to take advantage of it varies. Each includes the Safari Web browser and YouTube application, but the touch lacks the iPhone's Mail, Stocks, Maps, and Weather applications.

The iPod touch offers a separate Contacts application, whereas the iPhone puts Contacts in the Phone area of the device. Outside this difference, the two versions of Contacts work similarly. You can create and edit contacts on each device. And when you tap on a URL in a contact, Safari launches and takes you to that address. But tapping on phone, address, and e-mail fields within a contact does nothing on the iPod touch, as it lacks applications for taking advantage of those items.

Both devices include a Calendar application, but only the iPhone lets you create events on it. With the iPod touch you must create events on your computer and sync them to the iPod through iTunes. Why does Apple let you enter and edit contacts on the iPod touch, but not events?

The two Photos programs are similar, but because the iPod touch lacks a camera, you'll find no Camera Roll entry on the iPod. And since the iPod has no e-mail client, it doesn't offer an option

iPod Touch

Product	CAPACITY	RATING	PRICE	PROS	CONS
iPod touch	8GB	●●●½	$299	Beautiful and intuitive interface; iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store is fleet over fast Wi-Fi and very convenient; Web browsing and YouTube video on an iPod; extra applications useful.	Video and photo display not as good as on iPhone; no external volume controls or support for Apple's remote control; incompatible with old video accessories; no calendar event editing.
iPod touch	16GB	●●●½	$399		

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Looking for Better Control

Before Apple announced the iPod touch, I wrote that I hoped any touch-screen–based iPod in the future would, unlike the iPhone, provide a few tactile buttons for basic functionality: play and pause, forward, back, and volume up and down. After all, if you can't see the touch screen—when the iPod is in a pocket, purse, or bag, for example—you can't use screen-based controls. (And because of the weather or location, it may not be safe—for the iPod or for your person—to pull the iPod out to access the screen.)

Unfortunately, with the iPod touch, Apple omitted not only basic playback buttons, but also the volume buttons seen on the iPhone.

A possible solution is one of the recent portable wireless remote controls that connect a small receiver to the iPod's dock-connector port. For example,



Belkin's **SportCommand for iPod** ($80; www.belkin.com) worked well with the iPod touch in my testing. However, not all models do work—you'll want to test before buying—and the receivers for some tend to be bulky relative to the touch itself. Still, until Apple or a third-party vendor provides a better solution, these wireless remotes are likely the best option if you want to control your iPod touch when you're, well, out of touch.—DAN FRAKES

for e-mailing photos or sending them to a .Mac Web Gallery (which you can do on the iPhone by e-mailing the photos to a special .Mac address). Although the Photos program offers no command for assigning pictures to contacts (a task you can do on the iPhone), you can perform this in the Contacts program by selecting a contact, tapping on Edit, tapping on the Photo field, and choosing a photo from the Photo Albums screen that appears.

Unlike the iPhone, the iPod touch has no physical volume buttons.

You won't find a Notes program on the iPod touch, which is another oddity—not only because the iPhone has it, but also because earlier iPods included a Notes feature. The device is also missing games, as well as the ability to record via a third-party microphone. And while you can manage media manually with the iPod touch (something you can't do with an iPhone), it doesn't have a disk mode, meaning you can't use it as a hard drive as you can other iPods.

iPod and iPhone Media Parity

Once you enter the touch's iPod software, you'll find the experience nearly indistinguishable from using the iPhone's. Tap on Music, turn the iPod touch to landscape view, and up pops Cover Flow. Flick your finger to move through your collection of album covers, and tap on a cover to see any album tracks that the touch holds. Tap on a track title to begin playing the track. Rotate the iPod to portrait orientation, and the Now Playing screen will appear—that's where you can adjust volume, activate shuffle or repeat, and drag the playhead to move backward or forward in the track.

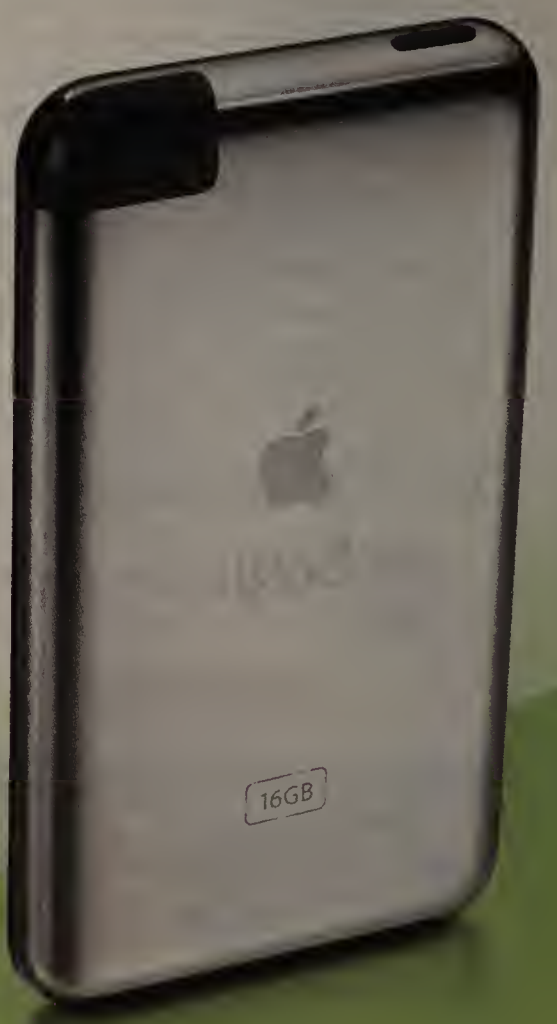
In areas of the iPod interface other than the Now Playing screen, you'll see Playlists, Artists, and Songs buttons at the bottom of the screen, placed exactly as they are on the iPhone. Because the iPod touch has a separate Videos application that you access from the Home screen (the iPhone places a Videos button in the iPod area), you'll find an Albums entry at the bottom of the touch's screen when using the iPod functions. Tap on More, and you'll see the Audiobooks, Compilations, Composers, Genres, and Podcasts entries.

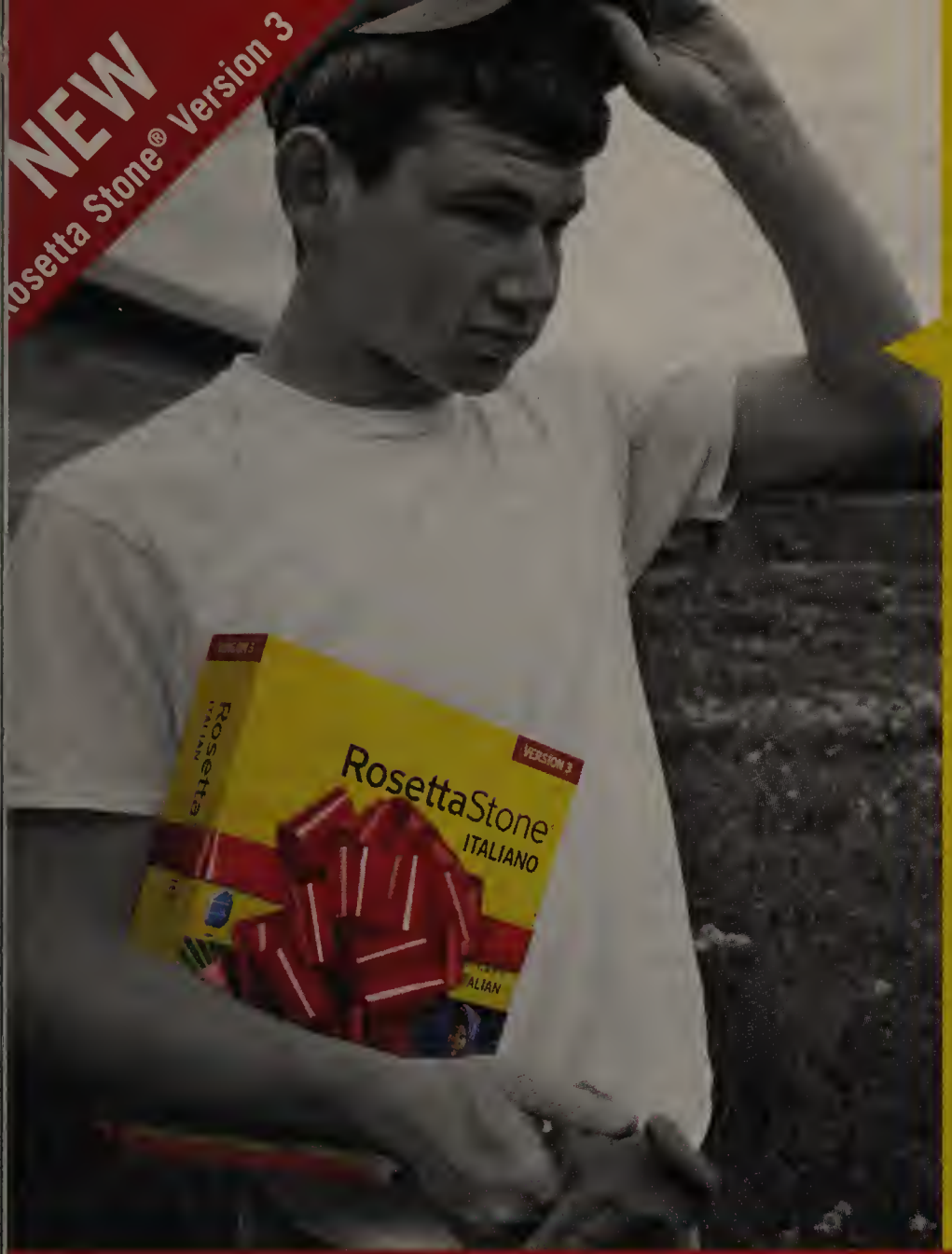
Vetting Video

Video navigation and playback operate similarly on the iPod touch and the iPhone. Tap on the Videos button on the iPod's Home screen, and you'll see your videos broken into categories: Movies, TV Shows, Music Videos, and Podcasts. With TV Shows and Podcasts, the iPod groups three or more episodes of a particular title into a submenu—Macworld Video (3 Episodes), for example.

Like the iPhone, the iPod touch includes an option in Settings: Video for selecting whether the video plays from the beginning or from where you last stopped. There you'll also find a TV Out option. Regrettably, the iPod touch can output video only via Apple's new $49 composite or component cables. Old accessories that support video output from an iPod don't work with the touch.

Given that one of the main reasons for purchasing an iPod touch is to watch videos on its relatively expansive screen, it's unfortunate that video and photos don't look as good as they could.





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When the iPod touch was first released, some models displayed very dark or out-of-contrast video. The iPod touch 1.1.1 update alleviated the problem. However, even with the update, the iPod touch's display is not as bright as, nor does it offer the clean contrast of, the iPhone's display.

Touching the iPod's Killer App

While some people may be distressed at the apparent hobbling of the iPod touch's Wi-Fi capabilities (no Mail or Maps support, for example), Apple included Wi-Fi largely for a single purpose—purchasing music. The iPod touch includes a new iTunes icon on the Home screen for doing just that. Tap on it while connected via Wi-Fi, and you're taken to the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store. Here you can browse featured music and "top ten" selections in a variety of genres, plus use the iPod's keyboard to search for music (currently the Wi-Fi Store doesn't work with videos, audiobooks, or podcasts).

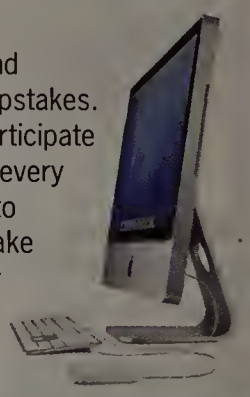
The iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store worked quite well in my tests. I previewed Wi-Fi Music Store files with both fast and slow Wi-Fi networks. On a fast network, it took very little time for the store's interface to appear, and to preview and download tracks. On a slower network, previews took a little longer to load, but once loaded, they played without interruption. I tried to download an album on a particularly slow network and managed to get half the tracks before I had to leave the area. After I returned home, the touch automatically logged on to my network and completed the download.

Once you download tracks, you can listen to them immediately—they appear in a Purchased playlist found on the iPod's Playlists screen. When you next sync the iPod, the purchased tracks are automatically downloaded to your computer. You can download your purchased tracks to another computer, but they won't download automatically (the iPod automatically downloads

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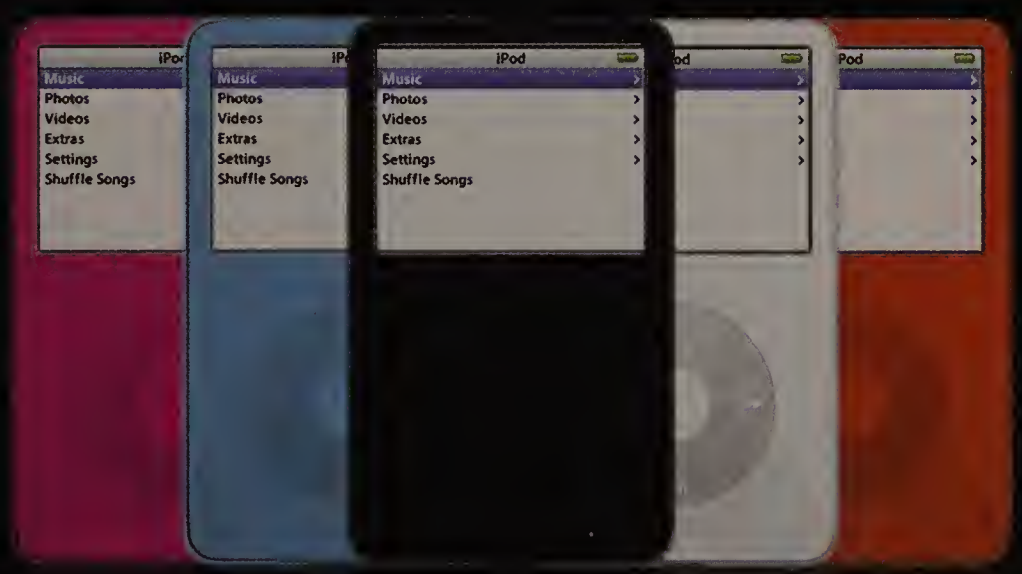
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I really enjoyed the freedom of previewing and purchasing music on the go. Being able to pull music from the ether is terrific and something I plan to do a lot in the future.

Battery Life

Apple rates the iPod touch's battery charge at 22 continuous hours of music playback and 5 hours of video playback. By way of comparison, Apple suggests that the iPhone will get 24 hours of music playback and 7 hours of video playback from that single charge. It's fairly typical for Apple to underestimate the amount of play time you'll get from a single charge, but with Wi-Fi switched on, the iPod touch undershot Apple's number for continuous audio play time by nearly 5 hours in our test—exceeding it only with Wi-Fi turned off (see "Battery Life: iPod Touch" for complete results).

Macworld **Lab Test**

Battery Life: iPod Touch



Longer is better. Time is in hours:minutes. iPods were tested with iPod software 1.0.1, with EQ and Sound Check off. Volume and screen brightness were set to 50 percent. Auto-Lock was set to 1 minute. Audio files were a mix of AAC and MP3 files of varying lengths. Video tests were conducted with movies purchased from the iTunes Store. The movies were played repeatedly until the battery gave out.

Macworld's Buying Advice

After spending a couple of months with the iPhone, I find it hard to pick up the iPod touch and not think about what could have been. If only video looked as good on the touch as it does on the iPhone. If only Apple had compromised on the iPod's sleek lines and added unobtrusive volume buttons (or offered a headset that included remote controls). If only Apple had thought through the iPod-as-PIM concept to the point where you could edit both contacts and calendar events on the iPod. If only I could use my old video accessories with my new iPod.

But that's not how it turned out. It's great to be able to surf the Web and very convenient to purchase music while you're on the move. And it's nice to have an iPod on which you can watch video without squinting. But I wish Apple had produced a more-perfect iPod touch—one that matches the excellence of the iPhone's video display and includes the kind of complete feature set that assures you you're using something other than a stripped-down iPhone.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Christopher Breen is a *Macworld* senior editor and the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, third edition (2007, Peachpit Press). **Dan Frakes** is a *Macworld* senior editor and the senior reviews editor for Playlistmag.com.



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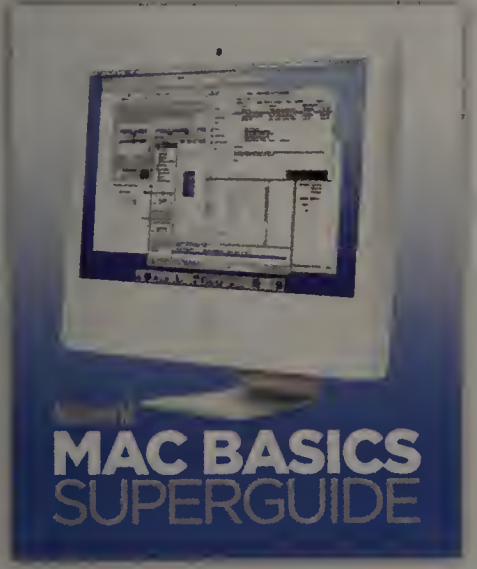
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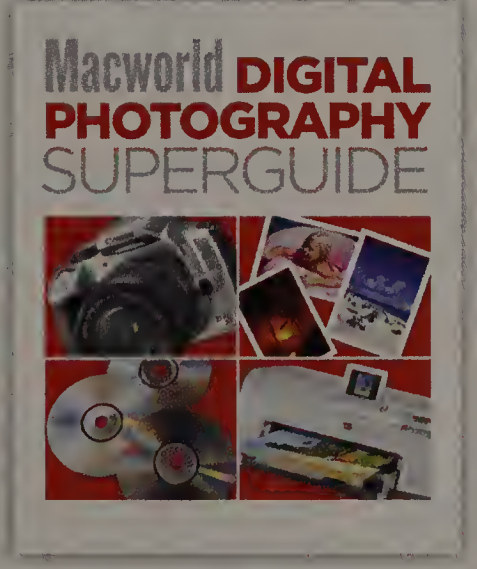
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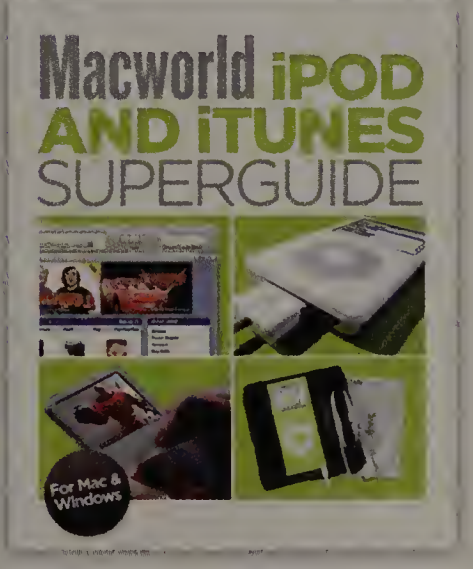
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49 OF THE SEASON'S BEST MAC GADG

Cool Mac GEAR

Some people find buying gifts easy. Without anguish or pause, they seem to intuitively know just what to get for everyone on their list. But most people aren't like that. For them, matching gift to recipient can be like doing a jigsaw puzzle in the dark.

We're here to shed a little light on the problem. In the pages that follow, we've collected 49 Mac-compatible gadgets, in three broad categories: digital entertainment (speakers, headphones, and the coolest way to watch movies from your Mac), photography and video (including some of the hottest new camcorders and great accessories for digital photographers), and travel (from laptop bags and sleeves to iPhone adapters and headsets). Within each category, you'll find gifts at various prices, making it that much easier to find the right gift at the right price for each recipient (even if the recipient is you).

The result, we hope, will aid the shopping challenged—or at least give you some excellent ideas to slip onto *your* wish list.

{ photography by peter belanger }

:TS TO PLEASE EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

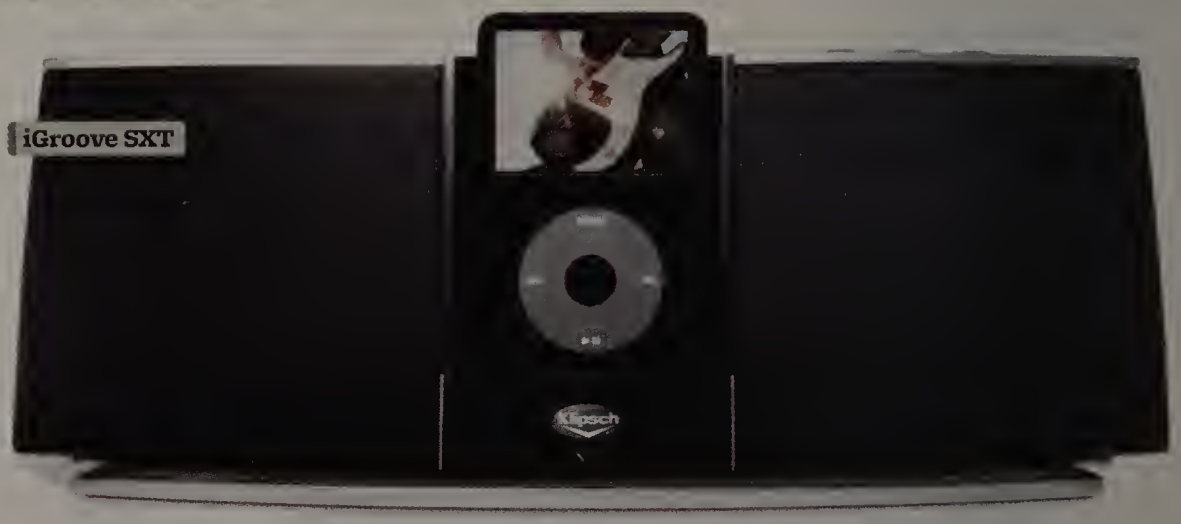


Entertainment

Speakers

You can't wear headphones *all* the time, right? That's why the electronics stores are crammed with iPod speakers. Among the new models worth checking out are the following:

The **iGroove SXT** ($170; www.klipsch.com), from Klipsch, gives you much of the same performance as the company's standard iGroove desktop speaker system, but in a smaller package and for less money. Tweeters featuring Klipsch's horn-loaded technology deliver the detail, and an automatic wake feature lets you use your iPod's built-in alarm to nudge yourself out of bed.



iGroove SXT

Want something more portable? Sonic Impact's **i-F3** ($170; www.si-5.com) combines the rugged built-into-a-hard-case design of the company's i-Fusion and i-F2 speaker systems, but adds a digital alarm clock and FM radio. The system sounds good for its size, includes a rechargeable battery, stands up to quite a bit of abuse, and can even store your iPod and earbuds inside the case.


i-F3

If you're more interested in an audio system for the bedroom, Logitech has designed, from the ground up, the ultimate iPod alarm clock—the **Pure-Fi Dream** ($250; www.logitech.com). Its amber lights and screen automatically dim based on ambient light, but brighten whenever the Pure-Fi detects a hand near the controls. (The motion sensors also pick up wild, flailing-for-the-snooze-button movements in the early morn.) Every control is backlit, so it's easy to set either of the Pure-Fi's two alarms in even a pitch-black room. Oh, and it's also a very nice speaker system, with a screen that displays information about the current iPod track.

For the iPod owner who has everything, or the design-conscious customer who doesn't want just any iPod speaker, consider the **Zeppelin** ($600; www.bowers-wilkins.com) from Bowers & Wilkins (more widely known as simply B&W), a striking debut entry in the iPod-accessory market. The Zeppelin shrinks down the company's high-end speaker technologies and puts them into a sleek, capsule-shaped system with five drivers and three amplifiers. A unique iPod-docking arm lets you wrap your hand around the iPod to operate it, just as if you were holding the iPod in your hand. And like the iPod, both the Zeppelin and its stylish remote have shiny chrome backsides.


Zeppelin



On Air Control 2.4G

JBL's **On Air Control 2.4G** ($349; www.jbl.com) combines an audio transmitter with a pair of compact, amplified, wireless speakers to let you listen anywhere in your house, regardless of the location of your audio source. You just connect the small transmitter to that source—via analog cables or, in the case of a computer, USB—and turn on the speakers. You can also connect a second audio source (say, an iPod) directly to the speakers. A wireless remote lets you adjust volume and switch the input source without having to venture to the room with the transmitter.

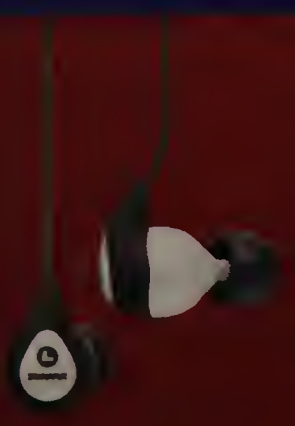
VIDEO

MovieMate 50

Sure, big-screen plasma and rear-projection TVs are great for watching movies. But to really get your cinematic geek on, there's nothing like a projector that blasts your favorite film theater-size across the nearest white wall. Epson America's new **MovieMate 50** ($800; www.epson.com) isn't the only projector that'll let you plug in a DVD player or Mac laptop to project your favorite movies, but it's one of the smallest all-in-one projectors on the market. The MovieMate 50 includes its own DVD and CD player, two built-in speakers, offset lens shift for distortion-free images, Epson's 3LCD technology for brilliant images and video, and a sleek black design. Oh, yeah, it'll also do a dandy job in the conference room at work for those boring old presentations.—DAN MILLER



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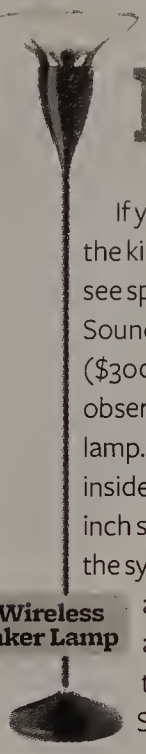
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Entertainment continued


Duo Wireless Speaker Lamp

If you're especially aesthetically minded—the kind of person who doesn't even want to see speakers in a room—you'll appreciate Soundolier's **Duo Wireless Speaker Lamp** ($300; www.soundolier.com). To casual observers, it looks like any other stylish floor lamp. (And it does indeed light the room.) But inside each lamp is an omnidirectional 5.25-inch speaker and a wireless receiver. Connect the system's transmitter to your audio source, and you've got sound, up to 300 feet away, without traditional speakers cluttering up your room. If you have two Soundolier Duos, you can even use them as left and right speakers or as rear speakers in a surround-sound system.—DAN FRAKES

Headphones

If you really want to do your iPod justice, you've got to ditch the earbuds that came with it and upgrade.

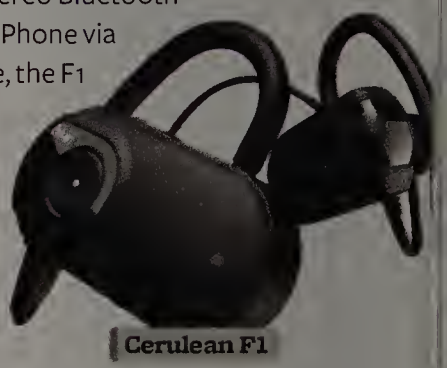
Ultimate Ears' **triple.fi 10 Pro** ($400; www.ultimateears.com), the company's top universal-fit, in-ear-canal model, is among the best that we've tested. Using three drivers in each ear, the triple.fi 10 Pro provides sound quality that rivals that of the company's much more expensive custom-made personal monitors, in a design that fits any ear. The downside? You may need to rerip all of your CDs at a higher quality level.


triple.fi 10 Pro

Noise-canceling headphones are a great alternative for frequent travelers or people who spend their days in noisy environments. The headset samples the noise around you and then produces an inverse audio signal that cancels out some of that sound, letting you enjoy your music at the same time. Audio Technica's **ATH-ANC7** ($220; www.audio-technica.com) is our current favorite among noise-canceling models, thanks to its excellent noise isolation and reduction, solid build, long-term comfort, and great sound quality.


ATH-ANC7

iSkin's **Cerulean F1** and **TX** (F1 alone, $130; both, $190; www.iskin.com) let you listen to your iPod with no strings attached. The TX plugs into your iPod's dock-connector port and sends audio, via Bluetooth, to the F1's two earpieces, which are attached to each other by a short cable that wraps behind your head. You can even control iPod playback from the right earpiece. (If rumors are true that stereo Bluetooth may come to the iPhone via a software update, the F1 should then work with the iPhone without requiring the TX.)


Cerulean F1

If you care about your ears, you should guard them by limiting your listening volume and by protecting them when you're in noisy environments. Inexpensive earplugs work well for the latter situation, but they make everything sound muffled and distant. That's why Etymotic's **Musicians Earplugs** ($150 to $200; www.etymotic.com) make a great gift for any music lover. These plugs don't come cheap, and they require a trip to the audiologist to get custom molds made. But they fit perfectly and reduce noise levels without affecting sound quality, so you can enjoy every note of a live concert without enduring ringing ears later.—DAN FRAKES



AUDIO

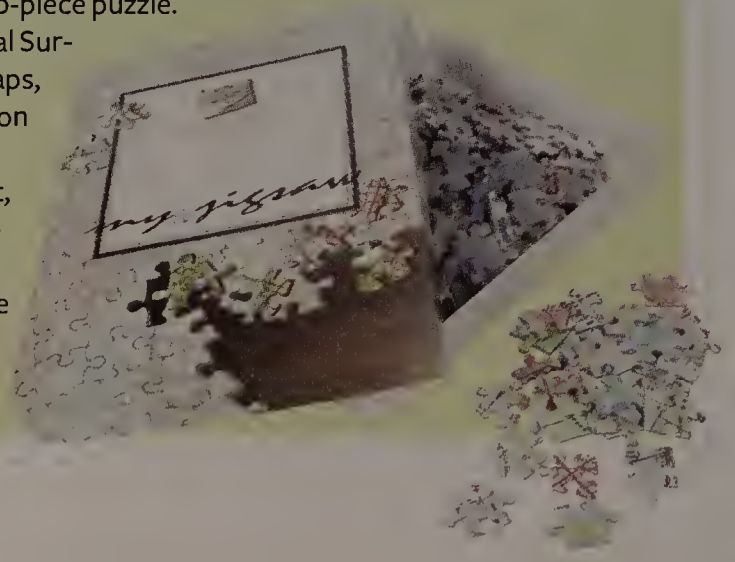
Fatman iTube

Audiophiles complain that compressed music sounds cold and thin. Many also swear that old-school valve amps deliver sound that's warmer and fuller than what you get from today's transistor-based hardware. Translate those two observations into a product, and you get TL Audio's **Fatman iTube** amp and dock for iPods ($750; www.fat-man.co.uk). As the name implies, it's a tube-based amp designed specifically for iPods. The iTube comes with a dock for your iPod and a squat, chrome-faced amplifier with three vacuum tubes proudly sprouting out of its top. You also get a 27-function remote control, and composite and S-Video outputs so that you can watch iPod-hosted videos on your TV.—DAN MILLER

GAMES

My Jigsaw

My Jigsaw makes customized jigsaw puzzles for people who think they're the center of the universe. You provide a mailing address and $40, and My Jigsaw returns a 12-by-18-inch, 400-piece puzzle. Based on the U.S. Geological Survey's incredibly detailed maps, the puzzle shows the location you provided and the 24 square miles surrounding it, complete with roads, topographic contour lines, notable buildings, and more ($40; www.my-jigsaw.info).—DAN MILLER



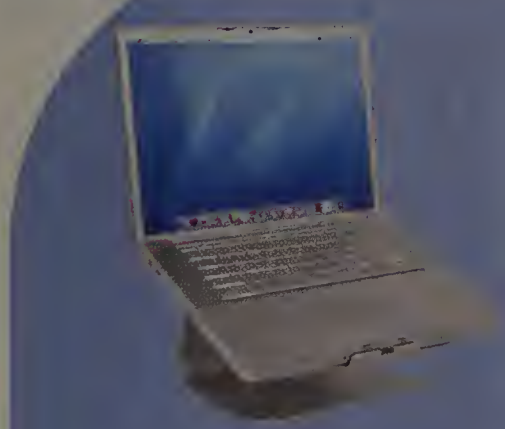


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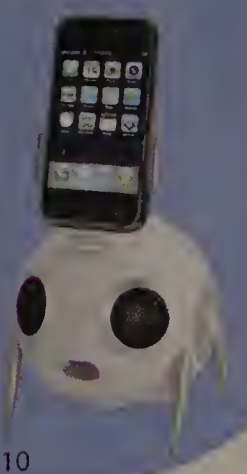
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Photography & Video

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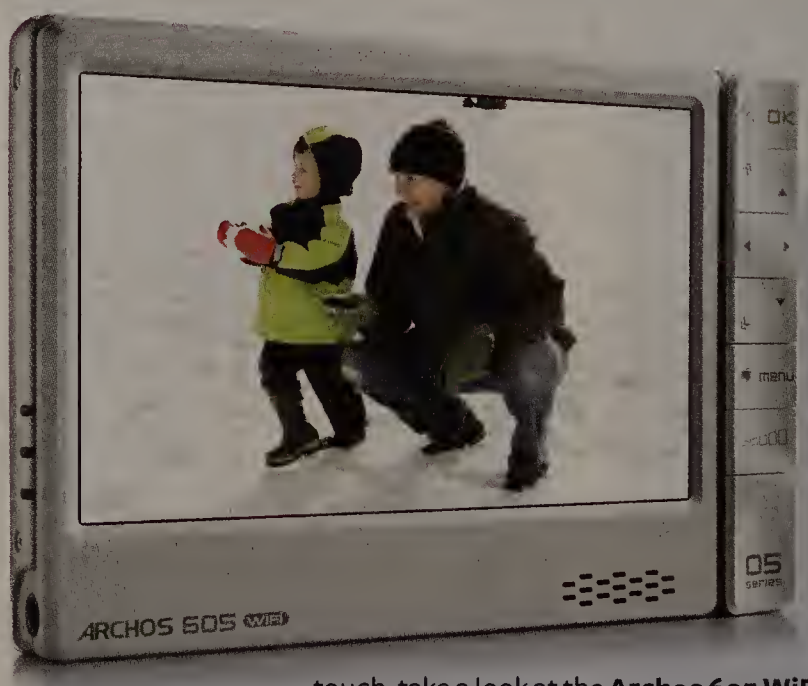
Today's superslim cameras are easy to take just about anywhere. But traveling with them can mean exposing them to lint, loose change, and other mysterious gunk that collects at the bottom of most backpacks and purses. Sure, you can enclose your camera in a case, but most of those are awfully chunky.

Made Products' **Always-On Wrap-Up** ($20; www.goalwayson.com) isn't chunky. It covers your camera's sensitive controls in stretchy neoprene without adding bulk. Even better, you don't have to worry about keeping track of the case as you use your camera; it screws right into your camera's tripod mount. Simply unwrap it to grab your shot and then wrap it back up.


Always-On Wrap-Up


Photosmart A826 Home Photo Center

Of course, getting the shot is just the beginning. The vast majority of digital photos never see the light of day, because making prints involves either figuring out your Mac's printer controls or taking a trip to the drugstore. You can save yourself the hassle—and the gas money—with Hewlett-Packard's **Photosmart A826 Home Photo Center** ($250; www.hp.com), which brings the convenience of kiosk printing right to your home. Simply pop in your memory card and use the printer's 7-inch touch-sensitive screen to choose the photos you want to print—no computer required. The



VIDEO

Archos 605 WiFi

Once you've shot your video, it's always nice to have a portable way to show it. If you haven't made the leap to the iPhone or the iPod touch, take a look at the **Archos 605 WiFi** (30GB, $300; 80GB, $350; 160GB, $400; www.archos.com). This portable video player has a 4.3-inch 800-by-480-pixel screen; plays video in WMV, MPEG-4, MPEG-2, and H.264 formats; plays music in AAC, WMA, MP3, and WAV formats; displays photos in JPG, BMP, and PNG formats; and even displays PDFs. As its name implies, the device also has a built-in Wi-Fi connection, so you can stream your edited movies from your Mac to the player.—DAN MILLER

CAMCORDERS

QuickCam Pros



Shortly after Apple started building iSight cameras into many of its computers, the company stopped selling the stand-alone iSight video camera. If you have an older Mac and want a camera for video chats and other impromptu filming, Logitech's **QuickCam Pro for Notebooks** and **QuickCam Pro 9000** ($100 each; www.logitech.com) can help. They've got Carl Zeiss optics, a 2-megapixel sensor, and autofocus (so you don't have to move back and forth trying to make yourself look less fuzzy), and they clip neatly above your laptop's screen. The devices' included software doesn't work with Macs, but the hardware itself is compatible with OS X 10.4 and later, as well as with iChat and other Apple programs.—DAN MILLER



Super Premium Mailable Photo Frames

extra-large screen also makes it easy to remove red-eye, correct colors, apply borders and card designs, and even write captions.

And if you're looking for a great way to send photo prints to faraway relatives or friends, look no further than Photojojo's **Super Premium Mailable Photo Frames** ($5 each; www.photojojo.com). These sturdy cards come in five chic designs that match any decor. Simply slide a 4-by-6-inch photo into the plastic sleeve, write your message on the inside, and then pop it in the mail. An attached ribbon turns the back of the card into a convenient stand.—KELLY TURNER

Camcorders and Video Accessories

Choosing the right camcorder just got a bit trickier. With Apple's Final Cut Pro 6.0.1 and iMovie '08, Macs can now support camcorders that use hard-disk drives or flash-based storage instead of tape. That means Mac users have a lot more camcorders to choose from. More options are always nice, right? Maybe so, but they can also be confusing. To make choosing a camcorder simple, think about your budget and the kinds of videos you shoot.

Serious, tech-savvy videographers will love the Canon **HG10** ($1,099; www.canon.com). It's Canon's first hard-disk camcorder to use AVCHD (Advanced Video Codec High Definition) technology, which captures and stores full 1,080i high definition video. Bonus features include instant autofocus, a 2.7-inch multi-angle wide-screen LCD, and a 24p cinema mode. This camcorder not only eliminates the need to buy tape, but also brings an end to the days of constant rewinding and fast-forwarding.



HG10

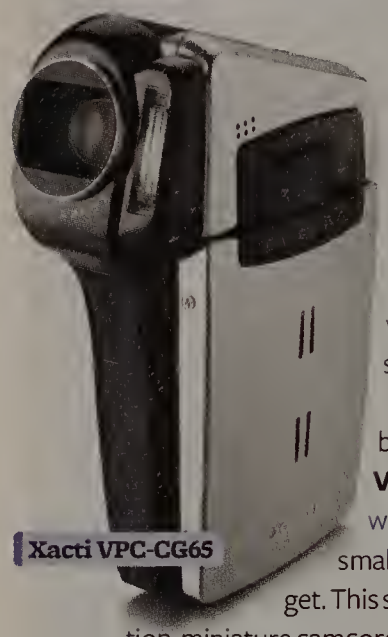
If the HG10 seems attractive, you should also consider Panasonic's AVCHD camcorder, the **HDC-SD1** ($1,000; www.panasonic.com). With three CCDs, the HDC-SD1 is designed to reproduce colors very accurately, even in low light. The main difference between the HDC-SD1 and the HG10 is that the HDC-SD1 doesn't use a hard disk. Instead, it stores video and images on SD or SDHC cards. Therefore, the HDC-SD1 is not only small, but also weighs less than



HDC-SD1



Photography & Video continued



a pound. It's a great tool for making casual home videos and the occasional YouTube short.

The HDC-SD1 is small, but the Sanyo **Xacti VPC-CG65** ($400; www.sanyo.com) is as small as camcorders get. This standard definition, miniature camcorder doubles as a 6.37-megapixel digital camera and fits in your pocket. You won't need tapes, either, because the VPC-CG65 stores its files on inexpensive SD or SDHC memory cards. The VPC-CG65's decent picture quality and super-compact size make it good for beginners looking to immortalize their vacations.

Despite the new Mac compatibility of tapeless camcorders, some buyers would rather wait before jumping on a new technology. Not to worry: tape-based MiniDV just keeps getting better. Die-hard tape fans should find plenty to like in the Canon **HV20** ($1,099; www.canon.com). Equipped with a 10× optical zoom lens and a 2.96-megapixel CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) image sensor, this consumer-level HD MiniDV camcorder is widely regarded as the best of its kind. The HV20 captures stellar video in both low-light and normal-light conditions (especially when you turn on its 24p cinema mode). If you don't have an HD display, the HV20 gives you the option to shoot in standard definition, so your good old boob tube won't go to waste. Whether you're just shooting home videos or you have serious cinematic aspirations, the HV20's ease of use and excellent video quality will make you happy you tried it.





But even great camcorders may leave something to be desired when it comes to recording sound. Filmmakers and YouTube stars alike know that the microphones built into most camcorders just aren't good enough.

Røde Microphones offers a speedy, affordable solution with its **VideoMic** ($149; www.rodemic.com). Lightweight and powered by a 9-volt battery, this shotgun mike can slide onto any camcorder that has a standard camera-shoe fitting and can plug directly into a stereo minijack. For its price, the VideoMic delivers about as close to professional audio as you can get.—BRIAN CHEN





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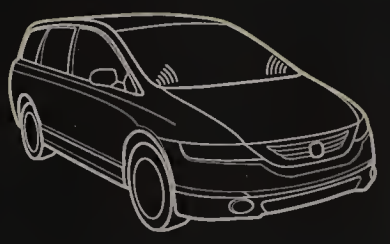
BTCUP



Bluetooth transmission



FM transmission



iPod nano accessories



IceSuit



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Travel

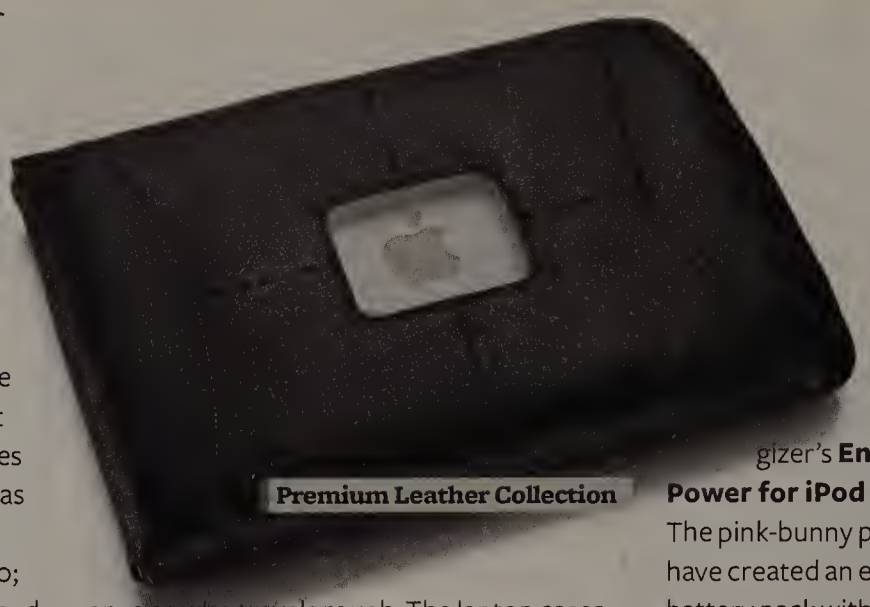
Bags

For the environmentally responsible mobile Mac user with panache, Monsoon Vermont makes a line of colorful laptop bags and totes made out of recycled plastic trash (which has been collected, the company says, by scavengers in Indonesia). The **Laptop Bag** ($90; www.themonsoongroup.com) is trimmer and lighter than most, though with plenty of padding and pockets for your stuff. The **Tough As Nails Tote** ($45) isn't specifically designed to carry a laptop, but it's big enough to hold pretty much anything.

If you don't require a full-fledged bag but still want to be environmentally correct, check out **TightJacket** laptop sleeves ($25; www.tightjacket.com) in faux tiger fur and other unusual prints. Like any sleeves, these will protect your laptop from scratches and from inadvertently opening in your shoulder bag, but they don't have any padding. The green angle? The company makes its sleeves out of unused bolts of spandex (most of which it buys from swimsuit manufacturers), which would otherwise end up in a landfill. One by-product of TightJacket's unique sourcing strategy is that many of its sleeves are one of a kind.


TightJacket

There are, of course, plenty of new bags in a more traditional mold. Logitech's **Kinetik 15.4 Backpack** and **Kinetik 15.4 Briefcase** ($100 each; www.logitech.com) are great for anyone who travels rough. The laptop cases have hard outer shells and padded inner sleeves that cradle your MacBook, they sport plenty of internal pockets, and they come in both briefcase and backpack forms.


Premium Leather Collection

For a truly professional appearance, you can spring for the sleek look of leather. MacCase's **Premium Leather Collection** (bags, $200; sleeves, $90; www.mac-case.com) includes sleeves, shoulder bags, and iPod cases in black, red, or beige. You can buy them individually or in coordinated combo sets.

If you're tired of the wimpy shoulder strap that came with your laptop bag, you could solve the problem with the **Skooba Superbungee Strap** ($26; www.skoobadesign.com), from Skooba Designs. It's a heavy-duty replacement strap with a ring of bungee cord built into the shoulder pad; that cord acts as a shock absorber. The back of the pad is covered with air-filled cells to soften the load even more. The strap is available in five color combinations and adjusts to fit pretty much anyone.—DAN MILLER

Power Supplies

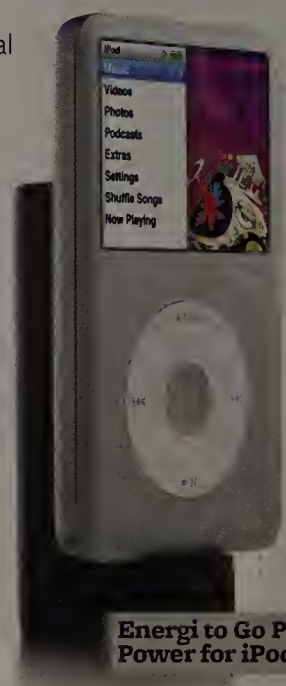
If you travel with your Mac, iPod, or any other electronic gizmo, you know that keeping the batteries charged can be tough. Fortunately, five new gadgets can help you keep your batteries full and ready to go.

Tekkeon's **myCharger** ($25; www.tekkeon.com) lets you take one charger for all your mobile gadgets. It has seven adapter tips that'll let you charge iPhones, iPods, BlackBerries, and mobile phones from LG, Motorola, Samsung, and Sony Ericsson. Along the same line is Iogear's **Gear Juice – Mobile Pocket Power** ($50; www.iogear.com), which comes with six interchangeable tips to fit a wide variety of mobile devices.

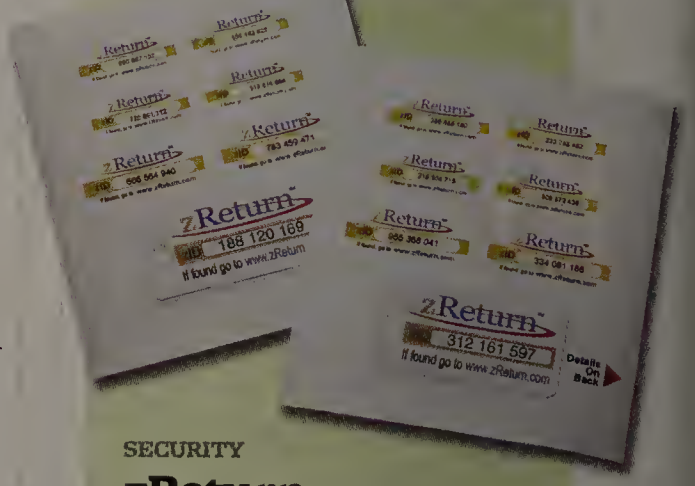

Kinetik 15.4 Briefcase

If all you need is to keep your iPod running, you should look into Energizer's **Energi to Go Portable Power for iPod** ($30; www.energizer.com). The pink-bunny people have created an external battery pack with two AA batteries that can theoretically provide 35 to 45 hours of music playback on your full-size iPod (it supports fourth- and fifth-generation models), and even more on the iPod nano.

In the building-a-better-mousetrap category, there's DLO's **Power Bug for iPod** ($25; www.dlo.com).



Energi to Go Portable Power for iPod



SECURITY

zReturn

The road is the riskiest place to take your electronics, which is why **zReturn** (www.zreturn.com) has come up with its lost-and-found system for gadgets. You affix a zReturn tag to each of your mobile devices, and then register those tags online; six tags cost $13. Whoever finds the missing item can log into the zReturn Web site and send you an anonymous message that he or she has found your goods. You can then arrange for their return.—DAN MILLER

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Travel continued



Of course, Apple sells its own wall charger for the iPod. But the Power Bug for iPod is cheaper and smaller than Apple's $29 iPod charger, and it has a status light that glows green or red to indicate power status. DLO also sells the **Power Bug for iPod shuffle** ($23).

Are you tired of lugging around a rat's nest of power and other cords for your laptop, iPod, phone, and more? KangaRoom Storage offers the **Travel Cord Organizer** ($30; www.kangaroomstorage.com), a handy travel tote with separate compartments for all your chargers. Even better, the organizer has a holder designed to fit any standard 8-inch power strip (the company sells one of its own for $13). Plug the strip into the wall and your chargers into the strip, and you can charge everything without unpacking a thing.—DAN MILLER

iPhone Accessories

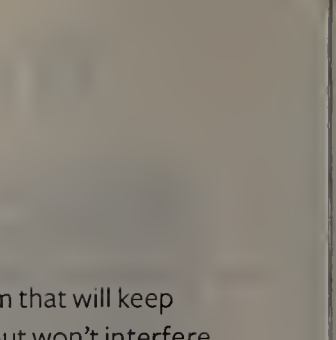
Of course, if you want to carry your iPhone around au naturel (the phone, not you), that's your business. But because of its price, you may be concerned about everyday scratches and dings, and you probably want some form of protection. Fortunately, there are plenty of options for keeping your iPhone safe and sound without adding too much bulk to the handset's elegant profile.

Zagg's **Full Body Shield** for the iPhone ($25; www.shieldzone.com) is made with Invisible Shield film, a transparent, virtually indestructible adhesive film that will keep your iPhone scratch-free but won't interfere with your operating the touch screen. NLU Products' **BodyGuardz for Apple iPhone** ($25; www.bodyguardz.com) is a pair of transparent films that will keep the front and back of your iPhone as pristine as on the day you took it out of the box. If you're looking for something that will protect your phone and give it a distinctive look, you might consider **GelaSkins for iPhone** ($15; www.gelaskins.com). These adhesive films for the back of the iPhone come in dozens of colorful and eye-catching designs and include downloadable matching wallpaper for your phone.

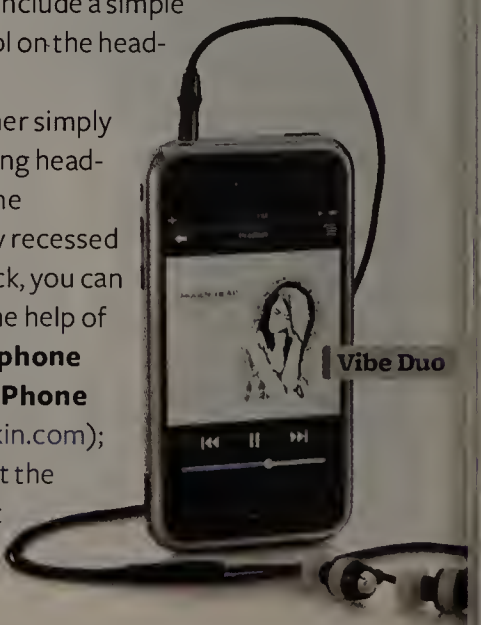


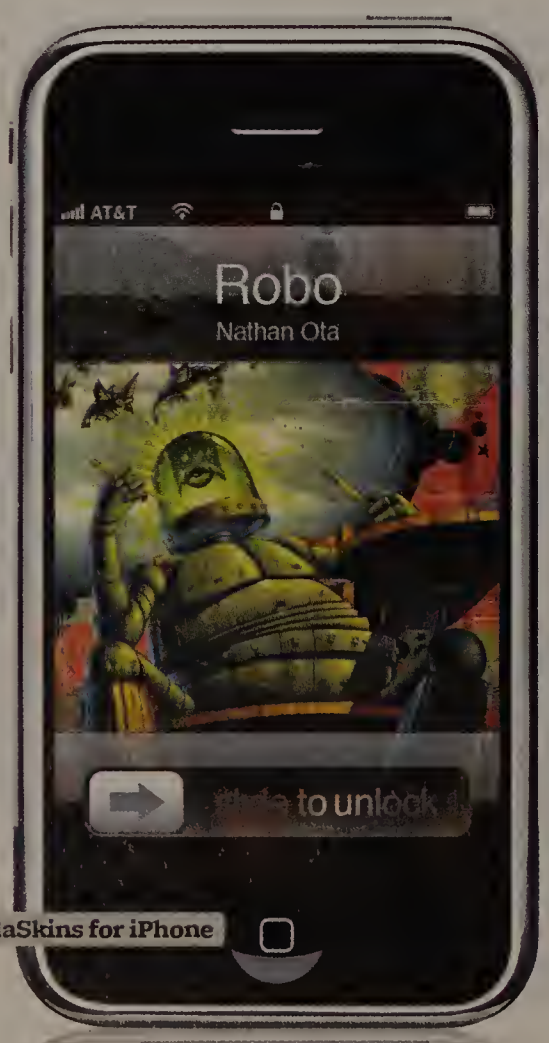
Full Body Shield and Body Guardz

The earbuds that come with the iPhone are perfectly fine for some people, but many of us want alternatives. If you're mainly looking for a way to improve your calling experience, take a look at Aliph's **Jawbone Headset** ($120; www.jawbone.com). This slick Bluetooth headset comes in black, silver, or red and sports military-grade noise-canceling technology to make your phone calls crystal clear. If you need something that handles music as well, check out V-moda's **Vibe Duo** ($101; www.v-moda.com). These wired canalbuds are fully compatible with the iPhone's recessed audio jack and feature a built-in microphone to let you take phone calls, too—and, like Apple's earbuds, they include a simple remote control on the headphone cable.


Jawbone Headset

If you'd rather simply use your existing headphones with the iPhone's pesky recessed headphone jack, you can do that with the help of Belkin's **Headphone Adapter for iPhone** ($11; www.belkin.com); be warned that the adapter is a bit on the bulky


Vibe Duo



GelaSkins for iPhone



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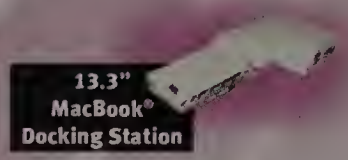


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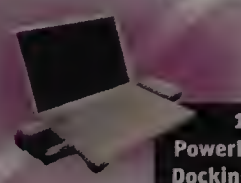
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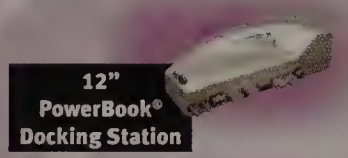
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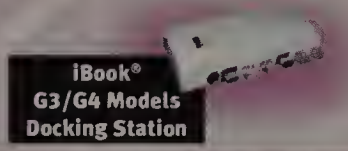
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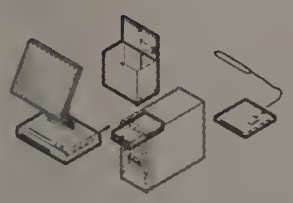
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Travel continued

WIRELESS

Spot



If you or somebody you care about is heading off to the wilderness, you should know about **Spot** ($150 plus service fees; www.findmespot.com). It's a satellite-based emergency beacon that lets you send emergency requests to 911, or messages to family and friends to let them know you're OK, from almost anywhere on the planet. It also lets family members (or whomever you want) track your whereabouts via Google Maps. Spot is smaller than traditional emergency beacons, and it's less expensive to boot.—DAN MILLER

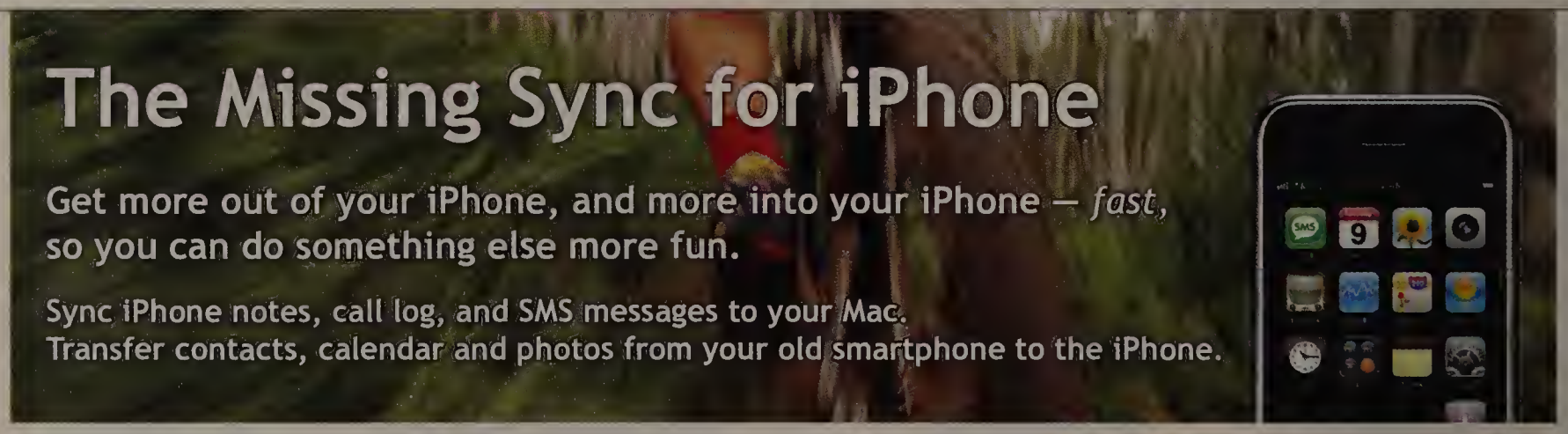
side. Shure's **Music Phone Adapter** ($50; www.shure.com) takes that idea a step further by not only letting you use your existing headphones but also adding a microphone and controls that allow you to both make and receive phone calls.

For people who spend a lot of time on the road, keeping an iPhone powered up is also a concern. The **Ultra Slim USB Travel Charger** ($12; www.usbfever.com) is extremely light and compact, with a fold-up plug that allows you to easily slip it into a small pocket. The device not only juices up your iPhone, but also charges all of your other USB gadgets. And if you're traveling abroad, you don't have to worry about straying off the beaten path thanks to Griffin Technology's **PowerBlock travel** ($35; www.griffintechnology.com). Because of its multiple adapters, it will connect pretty much anything that charges via USB to power outlets from Aruba to Zimbabwe.—DAN MOREN


Headphone Adapter for iPhone


Ultra Slim USB Travel Charger

Brian Chen is an assistant editor for *Macworld*. **Dan Frakes** is a senior editor for *Macworld* and the senior reviews editor for Playlistmag.com. **Dan Miller** is the executive editor of *Macworld*. **Dan Moren** is an associate editor for *Macworld*. **Kelly Turner** is a senior editor for *Macworld*.



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- Contact & Calendar Sync
- Video, Photos & Music



Got something to talk about?
Find the right home and best add-ons for your blog.

THE SMART Blogger's GUIDE

BY MATHEW HONAN

These days, you can find a blog for just about anything. Looking for affordable art prints? Weheartprints.com has them. Interested in Craftsman, Mission, and Prairie furniture? Check out Hewn & Hammered (hewnandhammered.com). In fact, according to the blog-tracking service Technorati, there are some 70 million active Weblogs. And for good reason: blogs are a fun and easy way to communicate. They can even be profitable. Some blogging services (such as Blogger and TypePad) include tools that automatically publish advertisements, based on the topics you write about, on your site.

No matter what your reasons for blogging, there are plenty of tools that can help you get started and keep readers tuned in. But not all blogging services are the same. I'll give you the inside scoop on five great online services that appeal to different types of bloggers, as well as 13 add-ons that let you customize your blog with music, games, headlines, and more.





A BLOG FOR Everyone

When it comes to blogging services, one size doesn't fit all

I am currently the owner of six blogs, which cover everything from birding to books—and I use several platforms to run them all. That's because different blogging services have different strengths. So it makes sense to choose the one that works best for the type of content I'm creating. While some services offer pure ease of use, others are geared toward business blogs or social networks.

FOR THE PERSONAL BLOG

If you want your blog to serve as a journal—that is, a place to share your thoughts and daily musings—keeping things simple is important. If blogging is a chore, you won't do it.

A pioneer of push-button publishing, Google's **Blogger** (www.blogger.com) is hard to beat for ease of use. Before Blogger, almost all blogs required that users write their own code. While that's no longer the case, Blogger remains the gold standard for simplicity.

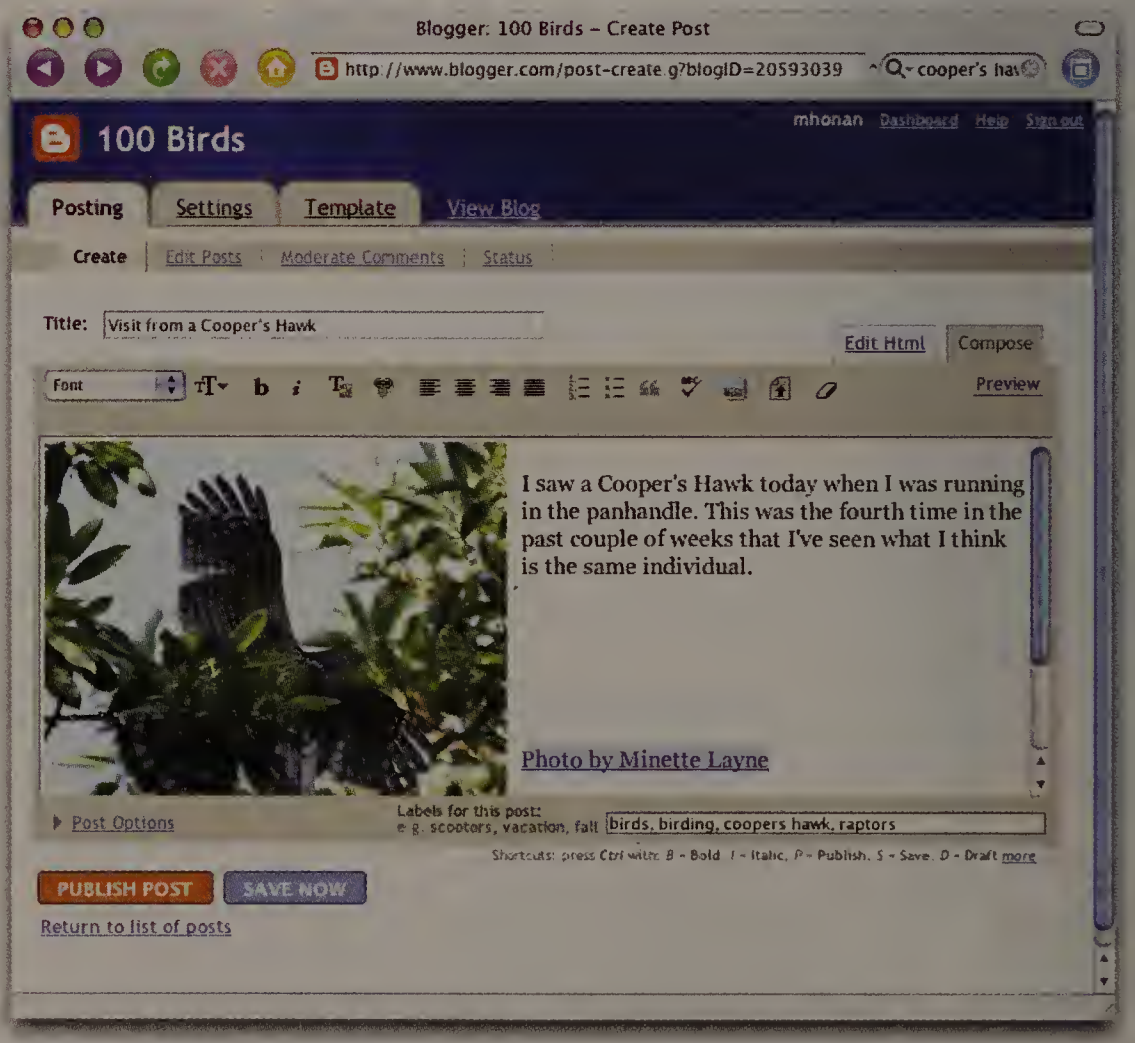
Getting started is a cinch. If you already have a Gmail address or a Google account, you're ready to go. If not, you'll need to sign up on Blogger's home page. Once you have an account, you can give your blog a title and choose a URL on Blogspot, Blogger's free hosting service (you can also move the blog to your own domain).

Under the Settings tab are numerous options for customizing your blog; for instance, you can choose how many posts appear on the main page, and set default rules for who can comment (anyone, registered users, or just authors of the blog). The Template tab lets you tweak your blog's colors and fonts, select a new design, or enter your own code. You can also find ready-made templates at sites like BlogSkins.com. Just be sure to include Blogger's proprietary posting tags in your template; otherwise, your site won't publish correctly. (For the proper formatting, visit macworld.com/3075.) To use the service's WYSIWYG tools for formatting text and adding links, you'll need Safari 3 (still in beta at press time) or a third-party browser such as Firefox or Camino.

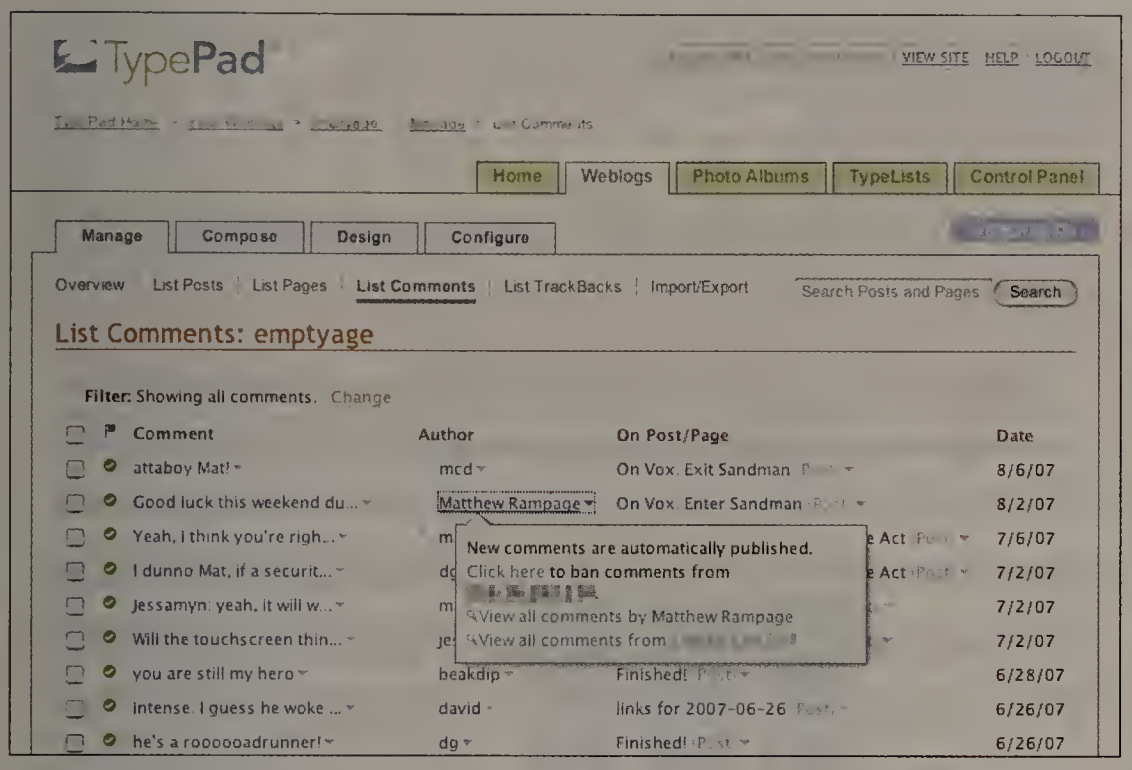
Another good option is Automattic's **WordPress** (wordpress.com). It's easy to use but powerful and quite tweakable. WordPress offers a much wider selection of templates than Blogger. You can choose from templates with one or two colors and clean lines, or you can opt for one of the bolder designs that look like something straight out of a modern-art museum. WordPress also offers some basic protection from comment spam with Akismet, a service that filters out junk before it bothers you. If something does slip through the cracks, you can banish it from your site by clicking on Comments and marking it as spam. And for $10 a year, you can even publish your WordPress blog to your own domain.

FOR THE BUSINESS BLOG

If you're looking to push the boundaries of what you can do with a blog—especially if you want to use the blog as a part of your business—check out Six Apart's **TypePad** (www.typepad.com). This service is more flexible than Blogger and WordPress, and it gives your blog room to grow. In fact, several professional media outlets, including MSNBC, *Time*, and *Wired*, rely on it for their Weblogs. TypePad



Blogger Blogger's what-you-see-is-what-you-get interface makes for easy posting and formatting—no HTML required.



TypePad TypePad gives you control over who can comment, and it lets you easily manage spam.

is not for people looking for a free trip through the blogosphere, though: plans start at $5 a month for the basic level, which gets you one blog for a single blogger, and run to $30 a month for a plan with multiple authors, unlimited blogs, and lots of bandwidth and storage space.

One feature that makes TypePad ideal for businesses is that it lets you set up static pages—for example, a home page or a bio page—with designs that match your blog's theme. Meanwhile, you get incredible control over your blog's layout; for instance, you can set the number of columns, specify whether your sidebar is on the left or right, and more. For multimedia-heavy blogs, TypePad offers a selection of mixed-media layouts that prominently display photos or videos.

TypePad's protection against comment spam goes beyond the capabilities of Blogger and WordPress. For instance, you can restrict comments to authenticated users, or require that people type in a code, which ensures that a human being and not a computer program is doing the commenting. You can also ban commenters and report spammers to TypePad to help weed those users out.

But one of TypePad's biggest draws may be its tech support. When I've had problems that I couldn't find an answer to in the knowledge base—rare occurrences—I've always been able to get an actual living, breathing person to give me a hand.

FOR THE COMMUNITY BLOG

Vox (www.vox.com) is another blogging service from Six Apart, but it focuses on multimedia and social-networking features. It's a great service if you want to keep in touch with a like-minded community, or if you simply want to correspond with a group of friends. There's one catch: Although Six Apart claims that Vox will work with the final version of Safari 3, it wasn't fully compatible with the beta available at press time. However, you can always use Mozilla Firefox or Camino.

When you set up a blog on Vox, you have your pick of hundreds of designs. Many themes complement specific interests, such as cycling, music, and travel. Some focus on cities (such as Las Vegas, New York, and Kiev), while others are associated with seasons and holidays. There are several layout options, but unlike with Blogger and

Home, Home on the Web

If you're hoping to make money with your blog, having your own Web address is a must. Blogging on your own domain, however, takes a little bit more setup. You typically do it in one of two ways: by publishing to your own server via FTP, or by domain mapping.

Google's Blogger and desktop blogging programs such as iWeb and Rapidweaver support publishing to your domain via FTP. Just make sure you have enough server space to do this. WordPress, TypePad, and Tumblr, on the other hand, all use domain mapping (Blogger offers this as an option, too). This means your custom URL is pointed toward, or mapped to, your blog. In other words, when people type in your domain, they end up at your hosted blog. In most cases, you can do this with the registrar you purchased your domain from. Each service and registrar does things a bit differently, but no matter which one you use, it's often a good idea to set up a subdomain or folder to publish your blog to, such as blog.*yoursitename*.com or *yoursitename*.com/blog (rather than your top-level domain, *yoursitename*.com). This allows you to publish material other than your blog on the same domain.

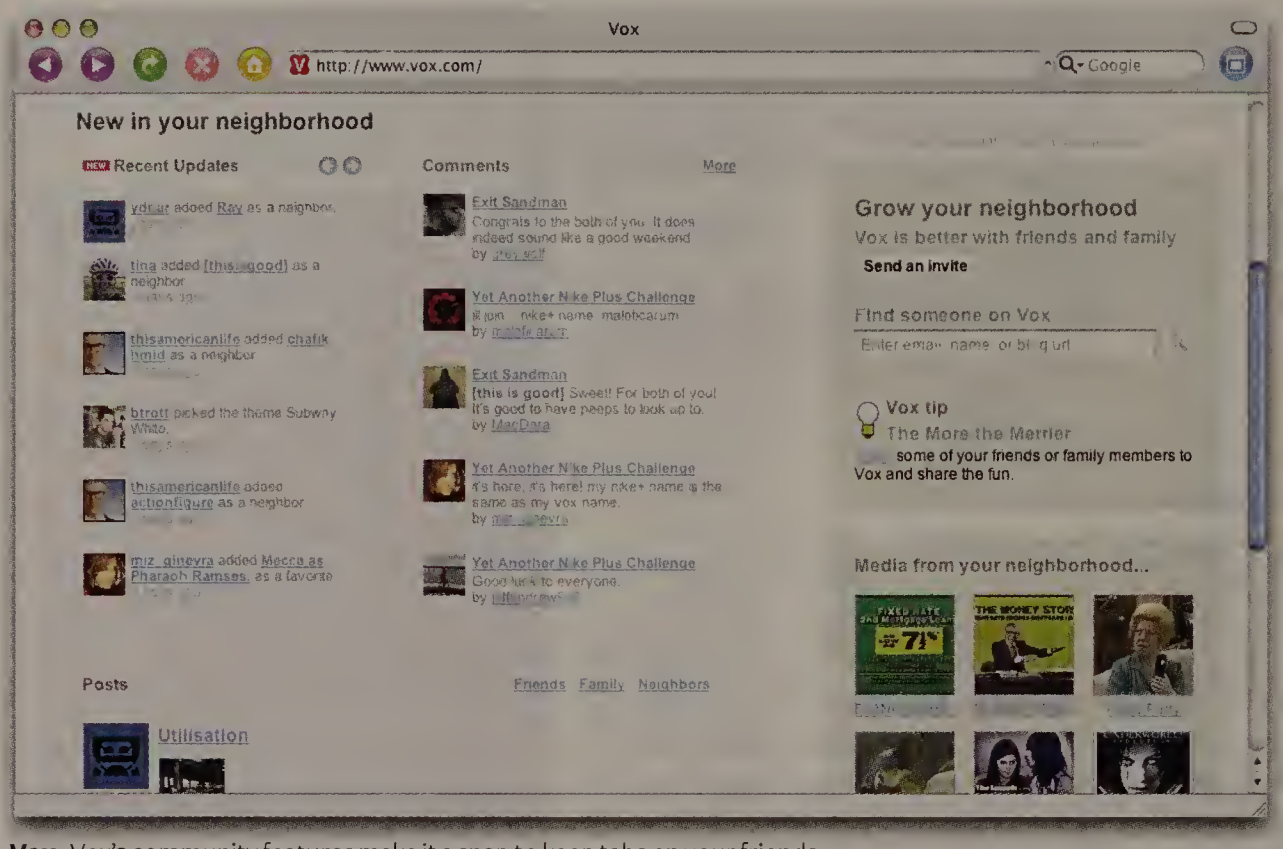
For more details, check out each site's domain-mapping FAQ. For WordPress, go to macworld.com/3081; for TypePad, visit macworld.com/3082; for Tumblr, head to www.tumblr.com/faqs; and for Blogger, check out macworld.com/3083.

Keep It Private

TIP

With most blogging platforms, you can choose whether the service publicizes your work. But a simple Google search for your name or company can easily turn up your blog, potentially exposing it to the eyes of coworkers and future employers.

If you want to blog about sensitive issues—for example, your job, a relationship, or an illness—you may want to set up a blog that only friends or family can read. Community-oriented services such as Vox and LiveJournal (www.livejournal.com) let you restrict posts to viewing by authorized people. If you go with a service that doesn't provide this option, make it a policy from the get-go to not mention your company or the full names of people you may be talking smack about (see "Best Blogging Practices" for more tips).



Vox Vox's community features make it a snap to keep tabs on your friends.

TypePad, you can't completely overhaul the design and layout. Also, Vox doesn't allow you to publish to your own server; you're stuck with the *yoursitename*.vox.com naming scheme.

When you create a new post, you'll see buttons for inserting photos, audio, books, and videos. If you click on Videos, for example, Vox will let you upload a new video from your Mac or embed one from iFilm or YouTube. There's also an Amazon.com tab that lets you search for a film and insert its poster art along with a link to the DVD. As for images, you can upload your own, search for a stock image at iStockphoto.com, or have Vox pull pictures from Flickr or Photobucket. Vox embeds these items in your post, allowing you to specify their size and alignment.

Of course, there may be times when you don't want the entire world to see one of your photos or videos—say, when it's a snapshot of you at a party, and you appear less than sober in it. This is where Vox's community tools come in handy. You can assign people as contacts (or *neighbors* in Vox's parlance), friends, family, or all of the above. Then you can designate posts as accessible only for friends, family, or neighbors. Also, since Vox's front page gives you a view of your *neighborhood*—posts and media uploads from all your contacts—Vox is an easy way to keep tabs on friends or other users with whom you share interests.

FOR THE MOBILE BLOG

To get the ultimate in simplicity, turn to **Tumblr** (www.tumblr.com), a publishing service designed for *tumblelogs*. A tumblelog is a type of blog designed for quick hits—short posts, pictures, Web links, and videos—rather than long-form text entries. This makes it ideal for posting from a mobile phone.

Enter your e-mail address, a password, and a desired Web address (you can later change it to your domain if you want), and you're ready to publish.

When it comes to posting, you'll see buttons for different types of entries, including text, photos, quotes, links, chat transcripts, and videos. Tumblr also imports feeds from various sources, such as Flickr, YouTube, Digg, Del.icio.us, Twitter, Vox, Blogger, and LiveJournal. In most cases, you can select whether to import content as full entries or as links that go back to the original post. You can also import an RSS feed, and Tumblr will publish it to your blog.

Want to blog from your phone? Tumblr can post entries sent via e-mail—great for quickly uploading camera-phone pictures and short Twitter-style observations. Just send a message to the unique e-mail address that Tumblr assigns you, and your photo or text will show up in a post, with the subject line repurposed as a caption. Although this isn't a unique feature—most of the aforementioned services let you post from the road—Tumblr does it better than most, and the tumblelog format is perfect for all those short entries you'll be tapping out on your iPhone.

Best Blogging Practices

So how do you create an interesting blog and get the word out? We talked to Anil Dash, the vice president of evangelism for Six Apart, to glean some of his best blogging tips.

Find Inspiration around You Feeling blocked? Dash suggests taking things that you've sent in an e-mail and repurposing them for posts, or using feedback from your community as fodder for new content. Tying current events to the topic of your blog works well. And don't be afraid to link to another blog, a Web site, or a video as an excuse to update your site.

Promote, Promote Tell friends and family about your blog, and add a link to it in your e-mail signature. Find a few blogs that are related to yours and send an e-mail to their authors—they might end up linking back to your site.

Don't Force Updates Update as often as you have something to say. "If you force it, your readers will be able to tell, and you won't be doing anyone any favors," says Dash. For a business blog, he recommends updating several times a week, "though some excellent business blogs only update a few times a month."

Deal with Problem Commenters In cyberspace, accountability is key. Dash says that commenters will be less likely to cause problems if you require that they supply an e-mail address or use an authentication service. And if inappropriate comments do pop up, feel free to delete or edit them.

Widget WONDERLAND

Make your blog more interactive with these Web tools

Anyone can slap pictures and text on a Web page and call it a blog. It's much harder to make a blog that stands out from the pack. One way to do so is by dressing up your site with widgets. Widgets are essentially tiny programs that add functionality, transforming your blog into something unique. For instance, a widget can display your photos, an RSS feed from another site, a list of songs you've listened to lately, or even a map that shows the places you've visited.

INSTALLING WIDGETS

Adding widgets to your blog is generally painless. In fact, some services supply their own, making installation an easy, automated process. One such service is WordPress, which offers a calendar widget, a widget for displaying your blog stats, a Flickr widget, and more. To install one, select the Presentation link, click on Widgets, and then drag and drop the one you want onto your blog. TypePad has an even wider selection, offering everything from a Google calendar widget to a widget that displays a daily cocktail. Click on the Design tab and then search the Widget Gallery. When you select one you like, TypePad automatically adds it to the sidebar of your blog.

Even if you're not using one of these services, you can add widgets to your site. Some widgets include an automatic installation option for popular blogging services, which takes the brainwork out of incorporating them. Otherwise, you'll need to copy the widget's code (there's typically a button that selects the right code for you) and paste it into your blog's template. I recommend placing widgets in your blog's sidebar, which makes them available on all pages (unless you've set up your blog to publish individual pages with different templates or sets of rules).

Blogger lets you add widgets to either the sidebar or the bottom of your page. Click on the Template tab, and then go to Page Elements. Click on Add A Page Element, choose the HTML/JavaScript option, and paste in the code. In TypePad, you can add external widgets to your sidebar as TypeLists. Go to the TypeLists tab and create a new Notes TypeList. Paste the code for your widget into the Note field.

WordPress makes things a little more challenging. Because the service blocks a number of commonly used HTML tags, many third-party widgets won't display properly (especially ones with dynamic images and scripts). To see a list of WordPress's supported HTML tags, visit macworld.com/3076. Still, if you want to give it a whirl, go to the Presentation tab and click on Widgets. Drag the Text widget to your sidebar, click on the configure icon, and paste the code into the sidebar's body. (WordPress.org offers an installable version of its software that will let you install other widgets of your choosing, as long as you have your own Web host and are confident about doing some site administration.) If you're using Vox or Tumblr, you're out of luck. Neither service provides a way to place widgets in the sidebar.

FINDING WIDGETS

So now that you know how to install widgets, it's time to deck out your blog. Widgets are available from individual developers and from online collection sites like Widgetbox (www.widgetbox.com). Not sure where to begin? Here are some ideas.

General Interest A number of all-purpose widgets can take your blog to



the next level. With Widgetbox's **New York Times widget** A (macworld.com/3077), for instance, your blog can be your newsroom, updating visitors not only about what's going on with you but also about the world at large. To add the local forecast, check out the teeny-tiny **WeatherLet widget** B (www.weatherlet.com).

Perhaps you'd like to add a calendar with iCal data so visitors will be able to search for upcoming events. With the **YourMinis Calendar widget** C (macworld.com/3078), you simply enter the Web address of your published iCal calendar—above the widget, click on Edit Me and then on Edit, and enter the URL where people can subscribe to your published iCal calendar—and then copy and paste the code to your blog. Or if you're an avid runner and use the iPod Nike+ Sport Kit to track workouts, the **Nike Plus widget** D (macworld.com/3079) is a great way to boast about your mileage total, challenges, and goals.

Music Widgets Want to show the world how good (or bad) your taste in music is? Apple's **My iTunes widgets** E broadcast your latest purchases, music or videos you've reviewed, or your favorite iTunes artists. To grab these widgets, visit your iTunes Store account settings and click on Enable My iTunes.

Accessorize Your Social Space

If you're one of the 50 million people with a MySpace page, or one of the growing number of Facebook users, you've got a world of widgets to choose from. However, installing them isn't as cut-and-dried as it is on your own blog, since MySpace and Facebook offer less leeway in how you can manipulate your page. MySpace actually blocks some widgets, so you need to make sure that the ones you want to add will work.

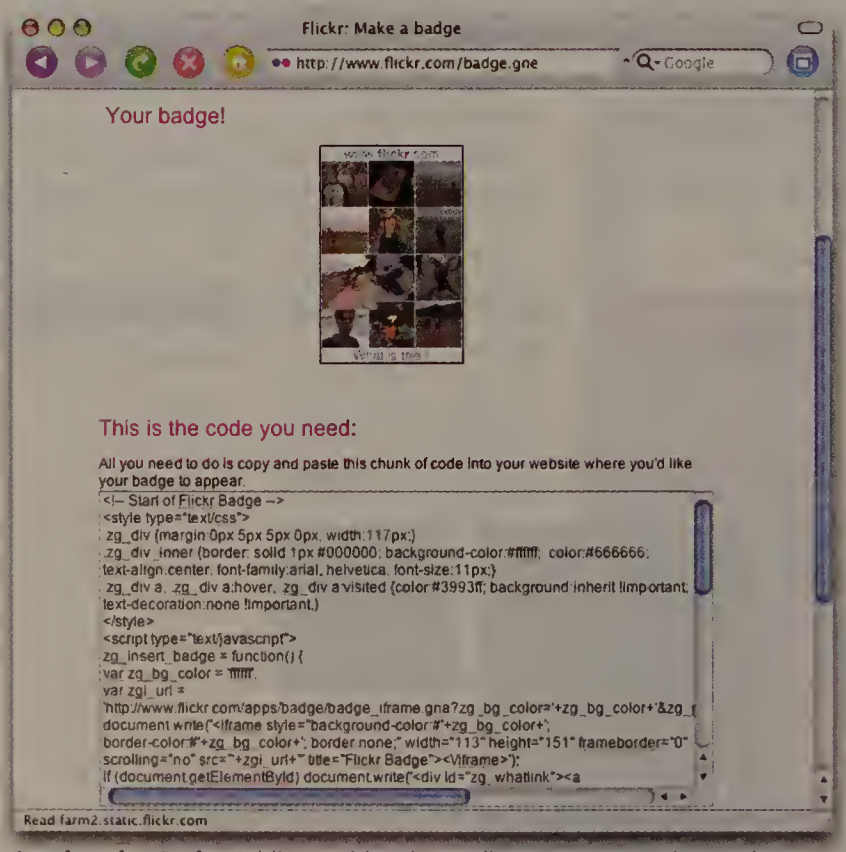
One way around this is to use Widgetbox (www.widgetbox.com), which automatically installs widgets on both sites. When you find a widget you like, look for the MySpace or Facebook icon. If it's there, you can add that widget to your page with just a few clicks.

For Facebook users, there's an even easier way. Facebook now lets you add miniature programs to your profile page, such as a map of cities you've visited or a program that establishes a personal training regimen based on your fitness goals. You can see a huge (and growing) list of widgets by clicking on the Applications link near the top left side of any Facebook page, or by going to www.facebook.com/apps.

Widgets also exist for fans of Internet radio. **Last.fm** F, for example, lets you create a miniature radio station that plays your preferred types of tunes right on your blog (www.last.fm/widgets).

Web Tie-ins If you're keeping a blog, chances are you're also maintaining personal data on other sites, whether it's a page on Facebook or photos on Flickr. So why not incorporate the highlights into your blog? The **Twitter widget** G (twitter.com/badges) displays your latest tweets so you can inform visitors about what you're doing right now without having to create a new post. Or you can add a widget from **Upcoming** H (macworld.com/3099) that keeps visitors up-to-date on which concerts, games, and conventions you're hitting in the coming weeks.

If you want visitors to find you on your social-networking site of choice, drop in a widget that ties back to your profile. For **LinkedIn** I, a variety of buttons connect back to your professional profile (macworld.com/3100). If you use **Facebook** J, you can add a widget (www.facebook.com/badges.php) that links to your profile and even includes some basic updates you make on the 'book. (To find out how to add widgets to a social-networking page, see "Accessorize Your Social Space.") For photos, the static **Flickr badge** K (www.flickr.com/badge.gne) displays a selection of recent pictures (up to ten), while the Flash badge adds motion, rotating different photos from your entire stream or from a specific set or group.



Getting the Code Adding a widget is usually as easy as copying a snippet of code and adding it to your site.

Widgets for Fun Of course, widgets don't need to be informational. They can just be entertaining distractions that encourage visitors to hang out on your site. For instance, the **Meebo widget** L (www.meebome.com) lets users chat live on the Web, and if you aren't around, visitors are able to leave a message. Or for pure nostalgia, a **Pac-Man widget** M (macworld.com/3080) gives visitors a crack at popping pills and chomping ghosts across your blog.

KEEP IT FRESH

The best way to discover widgets is to surf, sample, and see what works. At the end of the day, a blog's goal is to offer content that makes people want to come back again and again, whether it's your mom or an interested reader halfway around the world. ⊠

Mathew Honan has been blogging since 1998. His blogs include Emptyage (www.emptyage.com) and the tumbleblog Emptyagr (emptyage.tumblr.com). He also writes for *Wired* and *National Journal's Technology Daily*.

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Music Map Research your favorite songs, bands, their band members and similar bands.

Album Art Go beyond the standard (or wrong) album art found, and easily replace with the correct album covers. You can even drag and drop your own images to create custom album covers.

Visualizers Several unique visualizers that include rotating album art, scrolling lyrics and other visually exciting features.



On-The-Go Features

Sync your iPod with iTunes to add and update the following features:

- news
- weather
- movie times
- documents
- stocks
- directions
- gas prices
- emails

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Easy Online Backups

Forget juggling discs—safeguard your data off-site

BY JOE KISSELL

You know you should back up your data. But whether it's the cost, the setup, or the hassle of swapping discs or shuttling around hard drives, most of us find a million excuses not to get the job done. So wouldn't it be great if you could click on a few buttons and ensure that your data was backed up regularly? Thanks to a new breed of online services, it's possible to copy files over the Internet easily and affordably, keeping your data secure at an off-site location.

Weigh the Pros and Cons

Why copy your files over the Internet to faraway servers? For one thing, you don't have to deal with additional hardware or media—you simply take advantage of the online service's hardware. In many cases, you can just install some software, configure it, and let it run in the background. It's also easy to back up from the road without having to drag an external drive along—provided you have a fast Internet connection.

One of the biggest advantages of backing up online is safety. Because files are stored elsewhere, they're protected even if your equipment gets stolen or your office or house burns down. Plus, most services offer encryption (see "Safe and Secure").

There are downsides, however. If your Internet connection falters, or if the online service has server problems, you could be stuck without access to your data. Also, if you have a computer meltdown, you won't be able to boot up your computer from an online backup. If you want a bootable duplicate of your hard disk, you'll still



need an external hard drive and software such as Shirt Pocket's $28 SuperDuper 2.1.4 (★★★★½; macworld.com/2325) or Bombich Software's free Carbon Copy Cloner 3 (www.bombich.com). (See "Easy Mac Backups" at macworld.com/2596 for instructions.)

By far the biggest drawback of online backup is speed. Even if you have a fast broadband connection, backing up your data online will be much slower than backing up to a local hard drive or a server on your local network. In fact, depending on the amount of data you have, your first full online backup could take several days or even a *week* to complete. You'd only have to suffer through that once, of course, since subsequent backups would copy only new or changed files. And you could also be choosy about what you backed up. Still, you will want to carefully consider whether you have too much critical data to make online backups practical. (To estimate how long it would take you, see "Check Your Speed Limit.")

Find the Right Service

Some online services are tailored to backup; others are intended for file sharing but also can be used for backups. What makes the biggest difference to most people, however, is how files are uploaded. (For details about some notable services, see "9 Online Backup Options Compared.")

Access via the Web Several services, such as Box.net and myDataBus, offer storage space that you can access only from a Web browser. These services are designed with file sharing, rather than backup, in mind. You can get to your files from any computer without installing special software, but you'll have to upload files manually. Still, if you need to back up only a few files, these services could be good options.

Access as a Volume Some services let you mount online storage space in the Finder as a network volume—just as you would a CD or an external hard drive. For instance, Jungle Disk uses Amazon.com's S3 service and includes a Mac client for mounting the storage volume. Omnidrive also offers its own Mac client, while BingoDisk uses the WebDAV standard, which enables you to mount a volume by visiting the Finder's Go menu, choosing Connect To Server, and entering the server's URL.

Once the volume is mounted, you can access it using your favorite backup program—such as Prosoft's $59 Data Back-

ILLUSTRATION BY ENRICO VARRASSO

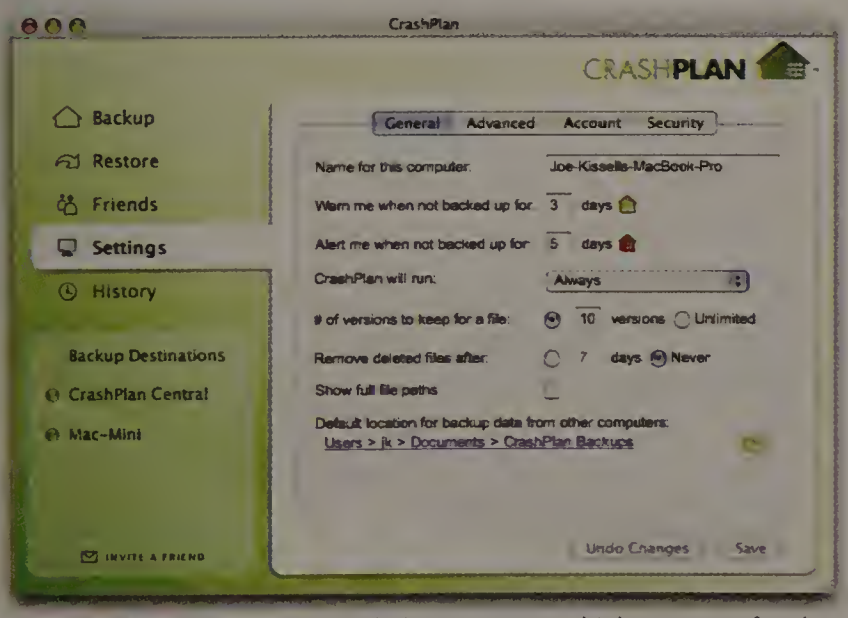
up 3 (www.prosofteng.com) or EMC Insignia's $129 Retrospect Desktop 6.1 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2497). You can schedule automated backups using all of your backup program's features, but you might need to do some fiddling to get the pieces to work together.

Service with Software I think the best option is a service that includes its own backup software. Since everything is integrated, such a system is easier to set up and maintain. My favorites are CrashPlan, Mozy, and Steekup. All offer software that lets you schedule automatic backups; CrashPlan and Mozy go a step further by including the option to back up only new or changed files throughout the day. (In Mozy, go to Mozy: Preferences, click on Scheduling, and select Perform Backups Automatically. In CrashPlan, click on Settings in the left menu, select the Advanced tab, and enter a time in the Back Up Changed Files After field.) All three encrypt your data for safety and compress it, which means you can typically squeeze more into your storage space.

CrashPlan charges for its software. But it does let you back up to a second Mac, or even to a friend's computer over the Internet, without purchasing an additional copy of the software. Steekup and Mozy include free software, though at press time Mozy's Mac application was still in beta and had some rough edges. (For instance, it can't yet back up files that are open or locked.)

Apple's .Mac One seemingly obvious choice for online backup is Apple's $100 per year .Mac service, which includes online storage space and the company's easy-to-use Backup software (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2496). Your storage space—or *iDisk*—mounts as a volume on your desktop. You get 10GB of storage, which must be shared by e-mail messages, shared photos and videos, Web sites, backups, and any other files you wish to store online. For an additional $100 a year, you can upgrade to 30GB.

Unfortunately, 10GB is too paltry to back up a typical iPhoto or iTunes library, to say nothing of the rest of your files. If you're thinking about using it just for backup, .Mac isn't the cheapest service either. But it's worth considering if you're already a member and just want to save copies of certain critical pieces of data.



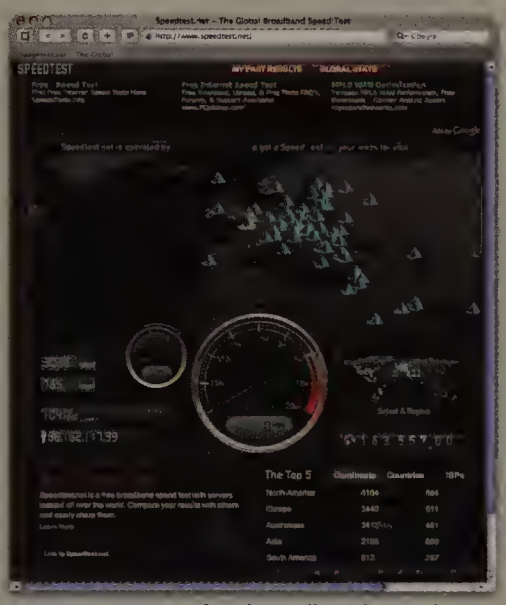
One File, Many Versions CrashPlan can store multiple versions of each file, so you can go back to an older copy if needed.

Check Your Speed Limit

Copying files over the Internet can take a long time. By figuring out exactly how long, you'll know whether your best course of action is to limit the files you back up, shop for a speedier broadband connection, or ditch your online backup plan altogether.

Most broadband connections offer slower upload speeds than download speeds. With backups, you're mostly interested in the upload speed. (Download speeds apply when you're restoring files, which you hope not to have to do very often.) But don't trust your ISP's claims: actual throughput often falls below that number. To get a more reliable idea of your connection speed, check it using a service such as Speakeasy (www.speakeasy.net/speedtest) or Speedtest.net (www.speedtest.net).

Once you know your true upload speed (usually expressed in kilobits per second), divide it by 2,276 to figure out roughly how many gigabytes per hour you can transfer (see "Test Your Speed"). For instance, if your upload throughput is 768 Kbps, that means you can back up about one-third of a gigabyte per hour. In that case, if you have a 500GB drive that's filled to the brim with critical data, online backups may not work well for you.



Test Your Speed A broadband speed test, such as Speedtest.net, can tell you what upload and download speeds to expect.

Tweak Your Backups

These tips should help you avoid common pitfalls once you're ready to give online backups a whirl. I'll use my favorites—CrashPlan, Mozy, and Steekup—to illustrate.

Pare Down Because Internet backups are slow, be picky about what you transfer. The logical starting point is your user folder. But depending on the size of that folder, and the speed of your Internet connection, you may want to back up just its irreplaceable items.

So how much of your user folder should you back up? Calculate the number of gigabytes your broadband connection is capable of uploading per hour (see "Check Your Speed Limit" to find out how). Divide the size of your user folder by this number to approximate how long it will take to copy. For instance, if your user folder is 5GB and your upload speed is 768 Kbps (which means you're uploading about one-third of a gigabyte per hour), it should take about 15 hours to perform your first full backup. File compression should reduce this time, but because so many variables come into play, it's best

to keep your estimates on the pessimistic side. I suggest limiting the amount of files so that a full backup does not exceed a week. Remember: subsequent backups will go *much* faster, since you'll be copying only new or modified data.

Limit File Versions CrashPlan and Steekup let you specify how many versions of each file to archive. Limit this number (to, say, five or ten) to help keep storage costs down. In CrashPlan, select the Settings option in the left menu, and then click on the General tab. Select the # Of Versions To Keep For A File option and fill in a number (see "One File, Many Versions").

In Steekup, click on the Configuration tab and select Number Of Versions from the Configuration Settings menu. Choose a number from the pop-up menu and click on Submit. Mozy doesn't currently let you restrict file versions, but since it gives you unlimited storage, that's no big deal.

Watch Bandwidth Most online backup programs upload files at the maximum speed your Internet connection can handle. But when you're using your Mac, you may want to preserve some bandwidth for other tasks, such as sending e-mail. To prevent annoying slowdowns, make sure to set your backup software to *throttle*—in other words, to automatically adjust—its bandwidth usage.

In CrashPlan, click on the Settings link and then the Advanced tab. From the Bandwidth Limit When Present pop-up menu, choose a maximum data rate; this should restrict the bandwidth allocation when the computer is in use. In Mozy, go to the Preferences window (Mozy: Preferences) and click on the Performance button. Under Bandwidth Throttling, move the slider until you hit the bandwidth number you want. Select Always Throttle to use that figure at all times; click on Throttle Between and enter specific times if you want Mozy to pull back on speed during set hours.

Steekup doesn't currently offer bandwidth throttling, but you can work around this by scheduling subsequent backups to occur when you're not using your computer. To do this, select the Configuration tab, click on Scheduling, and specify times for your backups.

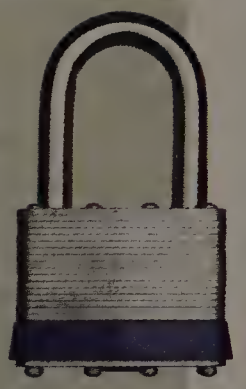
Test Restores It's wise to periodically check that files are being backed up correctly. I recommend doing this after your first full backup and every few weeks thereafter. To do so, select a few random files from the server and restore them back to your disk.

In CrashPlan, click on the Restore option in the left menu. In Steekup, select the Data tab, and then click on the Restoration button. In Mozy, choose Restore Files from the M menu in your menu bar. (If you don't see the menu, enable it via Mozy: Preferences.)

Restore the files to a different location from the originals. Once they're downloaded, open the files and compare them with the ones on your hard disk. If they appear to be corrupted, or if you can't restore them, contact the company's tech-support staff. Remember: it's always better to find out that there's a problem with your backups *before* a crisis occurs.

Joe Kissell is the senior editor of TidBits and the author of the e-book *Take Control of Mac OS X Backups* (TidBits Publishing, 2007).

Safe and Secure



Most services that provide Mac-compatible online backup software offer encryption that in most cases you couldn't turn off even if you wanted to. Encrypting your files ensures that they can't be read by anyone without a password—including someone intercepting your Wi-Fi signal as you back up files in a café.

However, if someone discovers your password, all bets are off. Therefore, choose a strong password for your online backups, guard it carefully, and change it periodically. (For more on choosing secure passwords, see macworld.com/3049.)

9 Online Backup Options Compared

Service	Backup Software	Mounts in Finder	Encryption	Monthly Storage Cost 10GB	50GB	100GB	Comments
BingoDisk www.bingodisk.com	○	●	○	$1.58	$8.25	$16.58[A]	Mounts storage space in Finder using WebDAV.
Box.net www.box.net	○	○	○[B]	$19.95	N/A	N/A	Accessible via Web browser only.
CrashPlan www.crashplan.com	●[C]	○	●	$5.00	$5.00	$10.00	Also allows backups to other computers via the Internet.
Jungle Disk www.jungledisk.com	●[D]	●	●	$1.50[E]	$7.50[E]	$15.00[E]	Uses Amazon.com's S3 service (separate signup required) for storage.
.Mac www.mac.com	●[F]	●	○	$8.33	N/A	N/A	Maximum storage (with additional fees) is 30GB, shared with all other files.
Mozy www.mozy.com	●[F]	○	●	$4.95	$4.95	$4.95	Included Mac backup client supports compression.
myDataBus www.mydatabus.com	○	○	○[B]	$0.83	N/A	N/A	Accessible via Web browser only.
Omnidrive www.omnidrive.com	○	●	○[B]	$3.33	$16.58	contact for quote	Uses included client software to mount volume in the Finder.
Steekup www.steekup.com/en	●[F]	○	●	$5.41[G]	$8.33[G]	$8.33[G]	Included Mac backup client supports compression.

N/A = not applicable. ● = yes. ○ = no. [A] $0.10 a month per gigabyte of data over 50GB. [B] Uses SSL to encrypt data in transit, but doesn't encrypt files on server. [C] $20 for CrashPlan or $60 for CrashPlan Pro. [D] $20. [E] Additional fees apply for uploading and downloading. [F] Software included for free. [G] Less if you sign up for a two-year plan.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER



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* Supports Mac OSX Tiger and Mac OSX Leopard only.

10 Great Smart Playlists

Take advantage of iTunes' intelligent collections

As your iTunes library gets bloated with tons of songs and videos, organizing them and finding what you're looking for can become difficult. Regular playlists can impose some order, but if you really want to get a grip on your library, smart playlists are the way to go. Just go to iTunes' File menu and choose New Smart Playlist, and you can build dynamic playlists that contain only what you want based on criteria of your choosing. We use a lot of smart playlists, and here are some of our favorites (unless otherwise stated, all multiple-line smart playlists should be set to **Match All Of The Following Rules**).



1. Just the Music, Please

Kind Does Not Contain Video
Kind Does Not Contain QuickTime
Genre Is Not Podcast
Genre Is Not Audiobook

If you're like me, your iTunes library contains more than just music; it also includes podcasts, audiobooks, and video. The thing is, when I want to listen to music, I want to listen to *just* music. Recent versions of iTunes finally include a Music item in the Source list that omits many of these other types of tracks, but you'll still occasionally hear a podcast. The preceding playlist includes only music tracks. It's useful for listening directly from the playlist, but it's also useful as a criterion for other smart playlists, to ensure that they contain only music. You may need to add Is Not criteria if you've got other nonmusical genres in your iTunes library (to add rules to a smart playlist, click on the plus-sign [+] button in the Smart Playlist window).—**DAN FRAKES**

2. Fix Those Tags

Year Is Less Than 1000
and
My Rating Is [0 stars]

Having a properly tagged collection helps you get the most out of it. Two fields I use often in smart playlists are song ratings and year. To quickly view all tracks missing one of these fields, try these smart playlists, which find songs with no year and no rating, respectively.—**DF**

3. What's New?

Date Added Is In The Last 1 Months
Play Count Is 0

Once your collection grows past a certain size, new music and videos can get lost in the crowd—and it's easy to forget to listen to or watch them. This smart playlist locates only those files you've purchased or imported in the past month and haven't played (you can adjust the time frame as desired). Hint: if you want to see all files you haven't gotten around to checking out, just use the last line of the smart playlist.—**DF**

4. Refresher Course

Last Played Is Not In The Last 3 Months
My Rating Is Greater Than [2 stars]

My collection has gotten so big that it includes tracks I haven't listened to in months or years. Some of those tracks I don't like, but most I've just forgotten about. This smart playlist lets you listen to tracks you haven't heard for a while, but omits songs to which you've given low ratings. You can adjust the rating to reflect your own minimum threshold for bad music.—**DF**

5. Find Liner Notes

Kind Contains PDF

If you've bought a lot of albums from the iTunes Store, chances are at least a few of them included liner notes—virtual ones, in the form of PDF digital booklet files downloaded with the music. But how do you keep track of these liner notes? You could copy them to your hard drive, but an easier way is to create a smart playlist that gives you quick access to all your electronic album information.—**DF**

6. Apple TV Strategy

Playlist Is Selected TV
Play Count Is 0

I enjoy watching TV shows (some downloaded, some ripped from DVDs) on my Apple TV. To manage the overflow of

playlist **Want more tips on digital music?**
For iPod- and iTunes-related expert advice and breaking news, as well as reviews of all the latest gadgets, check out Playlistmag.com.

FIND IT ONLINE Share your favorite smart playlists at macworld.com/3050

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS GASH; ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

potential Apple TV video, I've created a two-step smart playlist. First, I set up a smart playlist called Selected TV that contains all the shows I want to watch (**Match Any Of The Following Rules**, followed by a series of **Show Is *show name*** entries), with every episode of all of those TV shows. But since I want to sync only episodes I haven't watched yet, I combine it with another smart playlist, which I call Unplayed TV, and set my Apple TV to sync with the latter playlist, so that once I watch a show it will automatically disappear from my Apple TV hard drive.—**JASON SNELL**

7. For Small iPods

Time Is Less Than 6:00
Limit To *your iPod's capacity*
Selected By Highest Rating
Match Only Checked Items

Another downside to large libraries is that you can't fit all your music on your iPod. Until Apple adds the shuffle's useful AutoFill feature to all iPods, here's a playlist that gets as much of your favorite music onto your iPod as possible. It omits long tracks, and includes only higher-rated tracks and checked items; you can ensure that particular tracks don't copy to your iPod by giving them low ratings or unchecking them in iTunes. For iPod Capacity, use the amount of space left on your iPod after syncing video, photos, and podcasts (or disable syncing of these items for more space). Once you're done, choose to sync only this playlist in iTunes' Music settings for your too-small iPod.—**DF**

CHECK IT OUT

iMirror



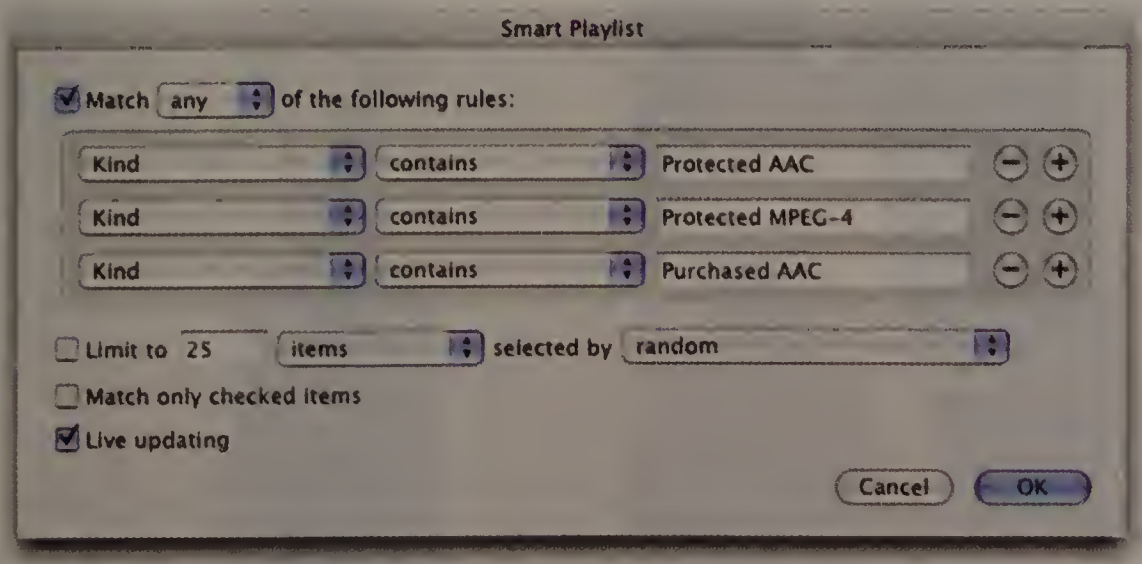
Want to control your iPod from across the room and still navigate its contents easily? Check out Bexy's $150 iMirror Wireless Remote Control Docking Station for iPod (www.bexyusa.com). Drop your mini, nano, or fourth-generation and later iPod into Bexy's dock, and the rechargeable wireless remote will let you control music and video playback (as well as settings and volume) from up to 150 feet away. With two-way communication, the remote loads up all the information about your iPod's music and video so that you don't need to look at the iPod to access playlists and artist and album information.

The iMirror base itself connects to your entertainment system via RCA and S-Video connectors, so you can share your video iPod's content on the big screen. The dock also charges the iPod's battery, and a mini-USB interface lets you synchronize the iPod's contents with a nearby computer.—PETER COHEN

8. What Did I Buy?

Match Any Of The Following Rules
Kind Contains Protected AAC
Kind Contains Protected MPEG-4
Kind Contains Purchased AAC

When I purchase items from the iTunes Store, I'm not always doing so from the same computer. When I take the files home to add to my main iTunes library, they don't show up in the Purchased playlist in iTunes' Store section. To keep a current list of everything I've plunked down my money for, I use this playlist, which looks for protected audio and video files—those are the ones I've purchased from the iTunes Store.—**JONATHAN L. SEFF**



Purchased Files With this smart playlist, you'll always know exactly what you've bought, regardless of which computer you used to purchase files.

9. iPhone or iPod Touch Season Pass

Video Kind Is TV Show
Show Contains *show name*
Season Is *season number*
Play Count Is 0
Limit To 3 Items Selected By Album

The iPhone and iPod touch are fine devices for watching video, but their storage space is even more limited than the Apple TV's. Here's a smart playlist to help you watch a TV show's episodes from the beginning of the season. It will load the first three unwatched episodes of that season onto your device. Once you've viewed a show, its play count goes to 1, and it therefore gets booted; the next show in the series will take its place when you sync.—**CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

10. I Want My MTV

Video Kind Is Music Video

Movies and TV shows have their own categories in iTunes' library, but not music videos. For some reason, they show up in the Music area with the album they accompany, but are otherwise hard to find. For a quick view of all your music videos, one line is all you need.—**JLS**

Christopher Breen and **Dan Frakes** are *Macworld* senior editors, **Jonathan L. Seff** is *Macworld*'s senior news editor, and **Jason Snell** is *Macworld*'s editorial director.

DIY Photo Studio

How to get pro lighting on an amateur's budget **BY DAVID HOBBY**

Whether you are photographing the latest tech gadget for your blog or shooting an antique to sell on eBay, getting great photos of small objects requires some photographic finesse. The trick is to remove all distractions from the background while modifying the harsh, direct light so that it softly defines the shape of the object you're shooting. While many professionals rely on expensive soft boxes and studio backdrops for this type of work, you can get impressive results with nothing more extravagant than a cardboard box.

What You Need

To make your miniature photo studio, you'll need a box that's large enough, when placed on its side, to hold your subject comfortably with some room to spare. You'll also need a couple of sheets of translucent paper. Tracing paper works well for this, but feel free to improvise. Waxed paper, parchment paper, tissue paper, or even plain white paper should all work fine. The paper just needs to be a neutral color and thin enough to let light shine through. A piece of poster board will serve as your backdrop. White is the usual choice, but colors work well, too. And because it costs less than a dollar per sheet, you can afford to experiment.

The best thing about this project is that you don't need a fancy camera or special lighting equipment. Any digital camera manufactured within the last few years should do the trick. I took these photos with my Canon G7 point-and-shoot.

One or two small lamps are all you need in the way of lighting. (If the lamp has a shade, remove it.) However, you'll get brighter and more consistent results from a small flash unit set to a low-power manual setting. You can use any number of wireless or corded options to synchronize an external flash with the camera's shutter button. For example, I've used a pair of 20-year-old hot-shoe flashes (Nikon SB-26s) and a $30 remote flash trigger from Gadget Infinity (www.gadgetinfinity.com). Whatever you do, don't use your camera's built-in flash. The harsh, direct light will defeat the purpose of the box. If the weather is nice, you may not need artificial lighting at all; simply use the sun as your light source.

Creating the Box

To get started, place the cardboard box on its side. You'll be shooting into what used to be the top. Using a craft knife or a pair of scissors, cut large windows in the left and right side panels and then cut off the top flap to prevent it from dropping down into the box (see "Studio Setup").

Although it's not required, I also recommend cutting a window into the third side panel—which serves as the





Studio Setup You don't need anything fancy to create a photo studio for shooting a small object (left). This setup's seamless background and soft, diffused lighting produced the image on the right.

bottom of the photo studio once you've turned the box on its side. You can then use this opening to photograph small flowers and other natural objects without uprooting them.

Completely cover the openings on the left and right sides of the box with a single layer of translucent paper. Then cut the poster board to the width of the box's interior. It should be long enough to drape down the back and across the bottom in one continuous piece. This smooth curve will help hide your horizon line, creating a seamless backdrop. Securely fasten the top and bottom edges of the poster board with tape.

Once you've gotten the hang of your photo studio, feel free to experiment with the floor of the box. For a dramatically different look, try placing your subject on a polished black tile (which you can purchase for around $5). Combine the tile with a piece of colored poster board that complements the subject's main color, and then position your camera so you're shooting from a low angle. The black tile will reflect both the object and your background color in the foreground of the image.

Setting Up the Lighting

Next, place your object in the center of the box and position a bright lamp or flash so its light points directly at one side. To ensure that you get even coverage, place your light source about as far away as the box is tall. You can move it later to make the light more or less intense.

If your lamp uses a 60-watt bulb, you may want to replace it with a 100-watt flood lamp to yield more light. But be sure to use an incandescent bulb, not a fluorescent one, as the latter may cause problems when you try to set your camera's white balance. If you're using an external flash but you don't have a stand, place the flash inside the heel of a sneaker to prop it up.

Study the scene from the front, carefully rotating the object or the box until you're pleased with the light and reflections. Some objects look best with soft light coming from just one side. In this scenario, the piece of translucent paper on the other side serves as a light reflector, subtly filling in the shadows of your subject. (You can amplify this effect by lining the inside of the opposite wall with aluminum foil.) If you're still seeing harsh shadows, however, you can solve the problem by placing a second light on the opposite side of the box. This dual-light setup also illuminates the background more evenly. You can position the lights symmetrically to create even light on both sides, or move one light farther away to make the light from one side more dominant.

Setting Up Your Camera

If you're using a continuous light source such as a lamp or the sun, I recommend placing your camera on a tripod for increased sharpness. A stack of books can substitute as a camera support in a pinch.

Turn off your camera's built-in flash, and then match your camera's white balance with the light source you're using. For example, set your white balance to daylight if you're using the sun or an electronic flash, or to incandescent if you're using a lamp.

If your camera offers a macro mode—usually represented by a flower icon—try turning this on. This mode lets you shoot from mere inches away. Alternatively, try moving the camera farther away and using the zoom to get close to your subject; telephoto settings tend to produce a more flattering perspective for close-ups. Experiment to find the best compromise.

And if you're using a white background, you'll want to overexpose your shot a little to keep the white from appearing gray (and your object from looking too dark). If your camera offers an exposure-compensation setting, set it to +1 and then adjust as needed.

Floating Your Object

Want to really show off? Try floating the object in your photo. This is especially easy with small items, such as coins.

To create this effect, you'll need a stiff wire, such as clothes-hanger wire. Bend it into the shape of an L. Cut a very small hole through the back of your box and background material, and then feed one end of the wire through the hole until you get to the bend. Securely tape the remaining wire, pointing downward, to the outside back of the box. This will create a sturdy support for your object.

With a little putty or tape, attach the object to the interior end of the wire. When photographed from the front, the object will hide the wire from view and appear to float in midair.

David Hobby is a photojournalist at the *Baltimore Sun*. He blogs about flash lighting techniques at Strobist (www.strobist.com).

Kill Troublesome Reflections

If you're shooting a highly reflective object and the lights cause unwanted reflections, try this tip that not even all pro photographers know: you can eliminate the errant reflections by taping pieces of cardboard in strategic places on the outside of your mini photo studio's paper windows. If you're photographing a small clock, for example, you might use a circular piece of cardboard to block just the light reflected in the glass face. When setting up these light blockers (referred to as *gobos*), make sure the camera remains stationary. It does no good to hunt down and kill a reflection, only to have it reappear when you change the camera's viewing angle.



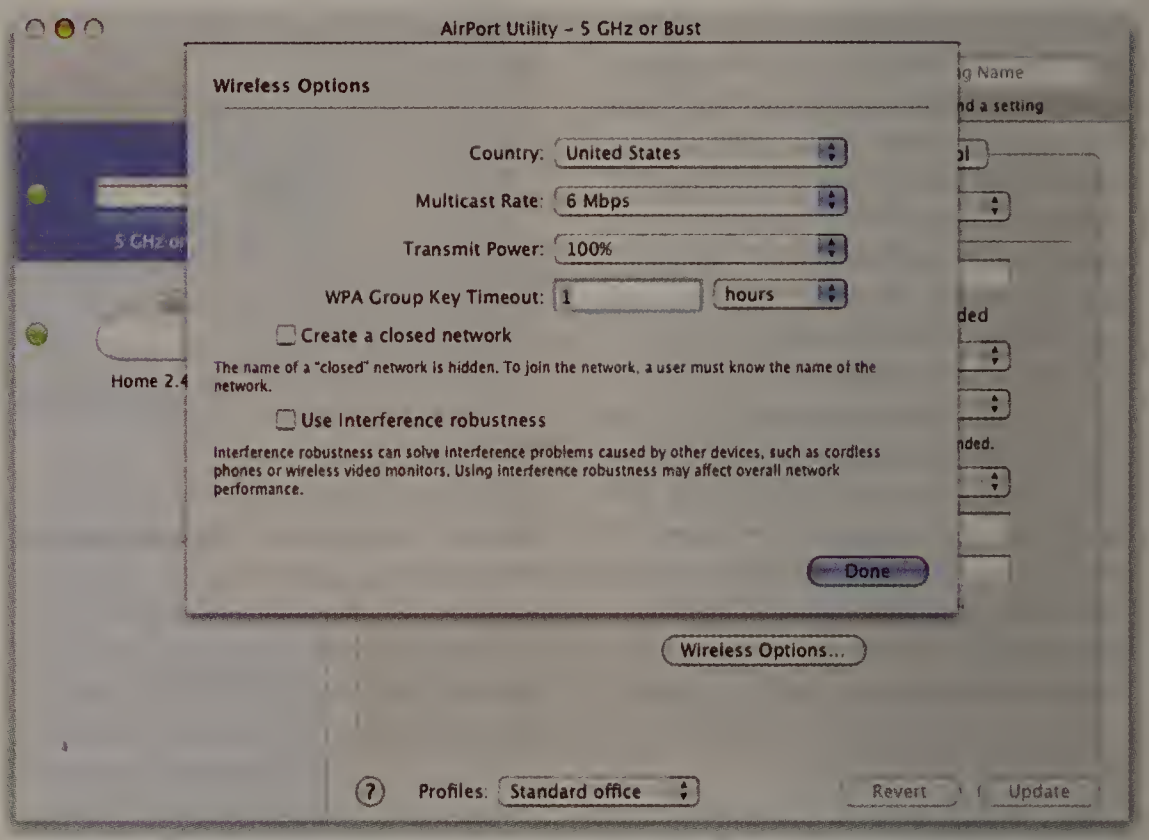
No More Reflections With the help of strategically placed cardboard, I was able to create interesting reflections on the metallic surface while eliminating them from the glossy screen.

Troubleshooting AirPort Interference

Wireless network acting flaky? Try these fixes. **BY GLENN FLEISHMAN**

Imagine a large room full of loud people. Voices bounce off the walls, making it impossible to follow any one conversation. That's something like what happens to wireless networks: there are all sorts of other electronic devices out there using the same wireless spectrum, and your AirPort hardware can have a hard time distinguishing one transmitter from another. The result: poor network performance.

If your AirPort network has been acting flaky, interference could be the culprit. But before you can solve the problem, you need to figure out its cause.



Interference Robustness While Apple's never been clear about what exactly this cryptically named option does, it can help if you're experiencing interference.

Other Networks

Wi-Fi uses two *unlicensed* spectrum bands, at 2.4GHz and 5GHz. Nearly all Wi-Fi equipment sold before 2007, including Apple's, uses the 2.4GHz band. The 5GHz band has been available for years, but until recently most Wi-Fi gear didn't support it.

Licensed spectrum bands, such as those employed by cell phone networks, are restricted for use by specific parties and limited to specific geographic areas. Unlicensed bands can be used by anyone. That freedom can result in conflicts when multiple networks operate too close to one another.

How do you tell if other wireless networks are interfering with yours? The clearest signs are stutters and drops: file transfers or streaming downloads halt and restart, or your network connection periodically drops out altogether.

You can also check your AirPort menu; is it crowded with other network names? If you really want to know what's going on, download iStumbler (donation requested; www.istumbler.com). It's an easy-to-use OS X program that provides a continuously updated list of in-range Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth devices.

If another wireless network is putting the hurt on yours, you have a number of options:

Change Channels Whenever you power up or restart an AirPort base station, it automatically scans for the least-crowded available channel (a subsection of the spectrum band) and sets itself to use it. But if you're having problems with interference, you can change the channel: in AirPort Utility's Wireless tab, use the Channel pop-up menu. (If your base station is using the 5GHz band, change channels by holding down the option key while selecting the Channel pop-up menu.)

Move the Base Station If interference is particularly bad in one part of your house or office, move the base station to another location. But this can be tricky if your AirPort base station has to connect to the broadband feed coming into the house and that feed happens to enter at a particularly interference-prone spot.

You could move the plug, but doing so would require an expensive service call to your cable or phone company; if you're a renter or if the plug is located on a stone or brick wall, moving it might be impossible.

But there's another alternative: home power-line networking, which carries data across a home's electrical wiring. You can run an Ethernet cable from your broadband modem's LAN port to a power-line adapter plugged into a nearby electrical outlet. You then plug another power-line adapter into an outlet near an interference-free

spot somewhere else in the house, place your base station there, and run an Ethernet cable from that adapter to your base station's WAN port. Belkin (www.belkin.com), Netgear (www.netgear.com), and other networking vendors make power-line hardware.

Use the 5GHz Band Compared with the 2.4GHz band, the 5GHz band is practically empty. The newest AirPort Extreme Base Station is one of the few Wi-Fi base stations designed for home use that work in that 5GHz band. All of Apple's Core 2 Duo laptops and iMacs (except the discontinued 17-inch 1.87GHz model) can also use the 5GHz band; with the build-to-order wireless option, so can the Mac Pro.

To switch to the 5GHz band, launch AirPort Utility, select your base station, and switch to Manual Setup. Click on the AirPort button and select the Wireless tab. Select 802.11n Only (5 GHz) from the Radio Mode pop-up menu. Click on the Wireless Options button and select Use Wide Channels. Click on Update to restart the base station.

Currently, no Mac-compatible adapters enable you to use the 5GHz band in older Macs or with older versions of OS X.

Reduce Power Output Full-strength Wi-Fi signals can interfere with other gateways. Those other gateways have to retransmit data or send it at a slower rate; this requires more radio time and produces interference. A weaker signal from your base station, on the other hand, could improve the overall network environment.

To adjust the strength of your base station's output, open AirPort Utility and click on Wireless Options. Select something less than 100 percent from the Transmit Power pop-up menu.

Other Communication Devices

Cordless phones and Bluetooth devices use the 2.4GHz band, too. But these and similar devices don't transmit data the same way as your AirPort hardware, and that can also cause interference.

Wi-Fi devices stake out subsets of the spectrum available in each band, using 20MHz channels of the 85MHz available in the 2.4GHz band, or of the 550MHz available in the 5GHz band in the United States. (Though 802.11n can use 40MHz channels for faster transmission, Apple has chosen to allow that only in the 5GHz band.) Bluetooth equipment, cordless phones, and other devices use channels that are a few megahertz wide, but they don't stay on them continuously. Instead, they hop from one channel to another in a preset pattern. This frequency hopping can degrade Wi-Fi networks.

Assuming you've ruled out other Wi-Fi networks as the cause of your AirPort woes, these other devices are your next suspects. Does your Wi-Fi connection stutter or fail when you're talking on your cordless phone? Is your Bluetooth keyboard missing keystrokes? Do your cordless phones produce static when the Wi-Fi network is busy? If so, you need to do something about those devices.

Update Your Bluetooth Make sure all your Bluetooth equipment is using version 1.2 or later. Bluetooth devices using those versions avoid hopping onto frequencies that are in use. The procedure for updating older versions of Bluetooth varies by device; check the manual.

Get New Phones Swap your cordless phones or baby monitors for new ones that use another band. If you currently have 2.4GHz cordless phones, replace them with models that use the 5GHz or 900MHz spectrum band.

Use the 5GHz Band See "Use the 5GHz Band" under "Other Networks."

Other Hardware

The 2.4GHz band has long been called the "junk band," because it's where many industrial, medical, and scientific devices send their transmissions, whether intentional (as with data devices) or not (as with equipment that generates signals as a by-product of its real operation). That's not an accident: regulators confined those devices—including microwave ovens, industrial sealers, medical monitors, and measurement equipment—to that spectrum band to keep potential interference away from licensed bands.

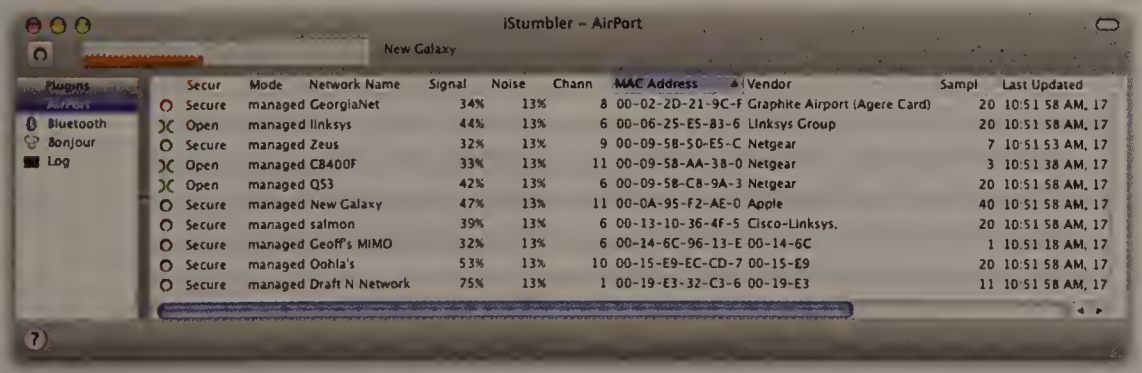
The 2.4GHz band has long been called the "junk band," because it's where many industrial, medical, and scientific devices send their transmissions.

To figure out if these devices are causing your AirPort problems, be observant. Does your Wi-Fi network go berserk when you turn on the microwave? If your network is bad during work hours, chances are a nearby business is the problem. If you live near an industrial enterprise or a hospital, those are likely culprits.

If you've ruled out other Wi-Fi networks, Bluetooth devices, and cordless phones, and you suspect other 2.4GHz emitters are messing up your network, here are a couple of things to try:

Turn On Use Interference Robustness To turn it on, use OS X's AirPort menu or (for an AirPort Base Station) use AirPort Utility (click on the Wireless tab, and then on Wireless Options).

Use the 5GHz Band See "Use the 5GHz Band" under "Other Networks."



iStumbler This program can show you all the nearby Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth devices that might be interfering with your AirPort network.

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Use the 5GHz Band See "Use the 5GHz Band" under "Other Networks."

Glenn Fleishman writes daily about Wi-Fi at Wi-Fi Networking News (wifinetnews.com). He wrote *Take Control of Your 802.11n AirPort Extreme Network* (Take Control Books, 2007).

Help Desk

Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

Liven Up Numbers Spreadsheets

If you want to make your spreadsheets more appealing, you can easily include images in Numbers '08 (♦♦♦½; macworld.com/3042), part of Apple's $79 iWork '08 suite. Use the Media icon on the toolbar, select the Insert: Choose menu item, or just drag and drop an image onto your spreadsheet. But once you get an image in, you might find making it do what you want tricky.

First off, Numbers adds images to the top layer of your worksheet by default, which means they'll cover up your data. Select Arrange: Send To Back to move the picture behind the table cells. That's fine if you want your data to have a white background that blots out the image (as it will by default in many templates), but what if you want to see the image behind all the cells?

You might think that you need to change the cells' fill option, but if you select a cell and open the Graphic tab of the Inspector (View: Show Inspector), you'll see that the fill is set to None. The secret is that in Numbers, the *grid* also has a fill, and by default that fill is white. To remove it, first click on the grid once to activate it. When you can see the row and column headers, click in the upper left corner. (You'll see an empty gray square above the number 1 and to the left of the letter *A*.) The row and column headers will vanish, leaving the grid with a selection box around it. Now open the Inspector, click on the Graphic tab, and set Fill to None. The cells in the table body will then most likely reveal the background image—unless the template you're using has some cells set to have a white fill. If you don't want those cells to be white either, select the row and use the Graphic Inspector to set Fill to None.

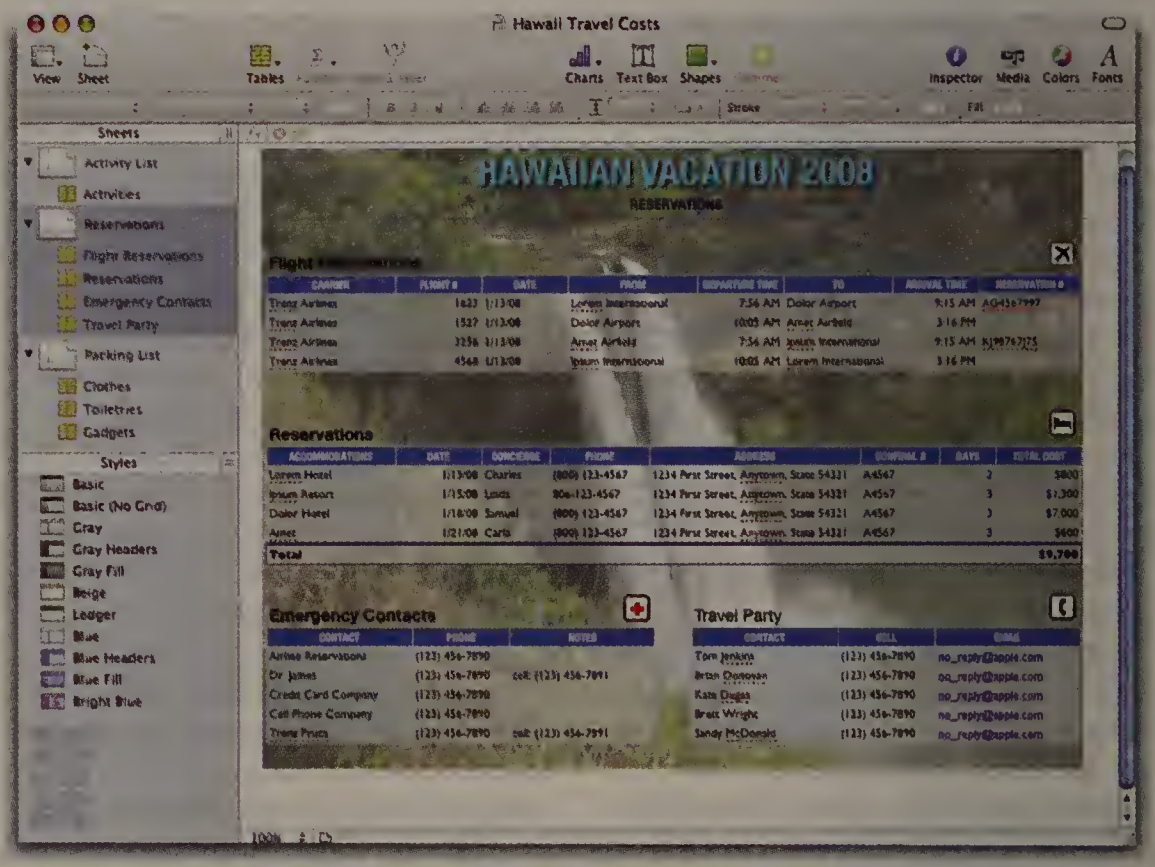


Image-Rich Spreadsheets Make Numbers' cell grids transparent, and you can create interesting effects by placing images behind the grids.

Now you're ready to truly customize your spreadsheet. You can vary which cells show what parts of the image and with how much translucency by setting some cells to have a fill and then changing the fill's opacity. After you select Color Fill on the Graphic tab, click on the color sample square that appears. The Colors palette will open; tweak the Opacity slider here to reveal more or less of the image behind it (see "Image-Rich Spreadsheets").

Try Dictionary Widget Tricks

Mac OS X 10.4's Dictionary widget provides a convenient way to look up the occasional word in the dictionary or



Have a hint to share?

Go to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from tips from Chris Paulu, Jordan Pittman, Davinder Singh, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.

MUG PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER; ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

thesaurus. Using it is as straightforward as can be—press F12 to bring up Dashboard, open the widget if it's not currently showing, and then type your word into the search box in the widget's upper right corner. But this little program does have a few hidden nuances.

First, as is the case with text in many OS X applications, you can get the search box to show you possible completions based on the characters you've typed so far. How? Just press and hold control, option, or ⌘, and then press the escape key, and you'll see a drop-down list of completions. Scroll down to the word you'd like to use and press return, and its definition will appear.

Once you have a definition visible, Dictionary has one more trick up its sleeve. Type **`rain`**, for instance, and you'll see its definition. Now click on the half-circle with the capital *R* on it, sticking out on the widget's left edge. A list of other known words and phrases that start with *rain* appears. Click on one of those words to jump to its definition, or click on the capital letter again (before clicking on another word), and you'll switch back to the standard definition of *rain*.

Toggle the widget from Dictionary mode to Thesaurus mode, and the same trick works; here it will show you a list of other words in the thesaurus that are similar in meaning to the chosen word—in this case, *rain*. Toggle the capital letter again, and you're back to the thesaurus entries for *rain*.

See Everything in iTunes

With the advent of Apple's free iTunes 7 (♦♦♦½; macworld.com/1766), the company split the monolithic library entry into several distinct libraries: Music, Movies, TV Shows, Podcasts, and Radio. While this makes sense, at times I'd like to browse my *entire* collection of stuff. Prior to iTunes 7.1, you could do this with a simple three-line AppleScript. That no longer works in newer versions of iTunes. There is, however, another solution: use a smart playlist.

Create a smart playlist (File: New Smart Playlist) with only one rule: Size Is Greater Than 0MB. Make sure Live Updating is selected so that the smart playlist will update as you add new content to iTunes. Name your smart playlist whatever you like (I called mine Kitchen Sink), but start the name by pressing option-space so the playlist will sort to the top of the Playlists section. If you prefer, you can even sort your merged library by type of content—just make sure the Kind column is visible in the main iTunes window by control-clicking on the column headers and choosing Kind from the pop-up menu. When you're viewing your collection in this smart playlist, pressing the delete key will remove an item only from the playlist. Press option-delete to remove it from your computer.

View Photo Books On Screen

Last holiday season, I used Apple's iPhoto to create a printed book of images of my two daughters for both sets of their grandparents. The end results were stunning, but far from cheap. If you're thinking of forgoing print and making an electronic photo book instead (by saving and distributing it as a PDF file), here are some tips for viewing it on screen.

To get the most book-like experience, set your PDF viewer to display the book two pages at a time. In Apple's Preview, open the PDF, choose View: PDF Display: Facing Pages, and then enter slide-show mode (⌘-shift-F or View: Slideshow). Click on the Fit To Screen button (second from the right in the controller at the bottom of the screen) to make the pages fill your monitor. If you're using Adobe Reader instead, select View: Page Display: Two Up. Next select Adobe Reader: Preferences, click on Full Screen in the Categories column, and deselect the Fill Screen With One Page At A Time option. Click on OK. Now select View: Full Screen Mode (⌘-L) and enjoy.

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the MacOSXHints.com Web site.

POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Automatically Update Podcasts



If you select iTunes: Preferences and click on the Podcasts tab, you can choose to update podcasts hourly, daily, weekly, or manually. But sometimes none of these options fits the bill—say you select Daily, but you shut down iTunes in the evening before the update has a chance to run. When you next connect your iPod, you may find that you don't have any new podcasts.

You can, of course, fix this by clicking on Podcasts in iTunes' Source list and then clicking on the Refresh button, but a one-line AppleScript will save you some work if you find yourself doing this often. First open Script Editor (/Applications/AppleScript/) and type this line (or copy and paste it from macworld.com/3070):

```
tell application "iTunes" to updateAllPodcasts
```

Select File: Save As and name your script Update Podcasts. In the Save As dialog box, navigate to *your user folder*/Library/iTunes/Scripts. (If you don't see the Scripts folder, click on New Folder to create it.)

Now switch to iTunes and you'll see a new AppleScript icon between the Window and Help menus. Click on it and choose Update Podcasts. The Scripts folder is one of iTunes' hidden gems. Any AppleScripts you store in it will appear in this menu (see macworld.com/3071 for great recommendations).

WHAT'S ONLINE



Look Up Partial Words in Dictionary Try these useful tricks for looking up definitions in Dictionary (macworld.com/3072).

See Paths to Login Items Ever wonder what some of those entries in your account's Login Items panel are? Here are two ways to find out (macworld.com/3073).

HELP DESK

Mac 911

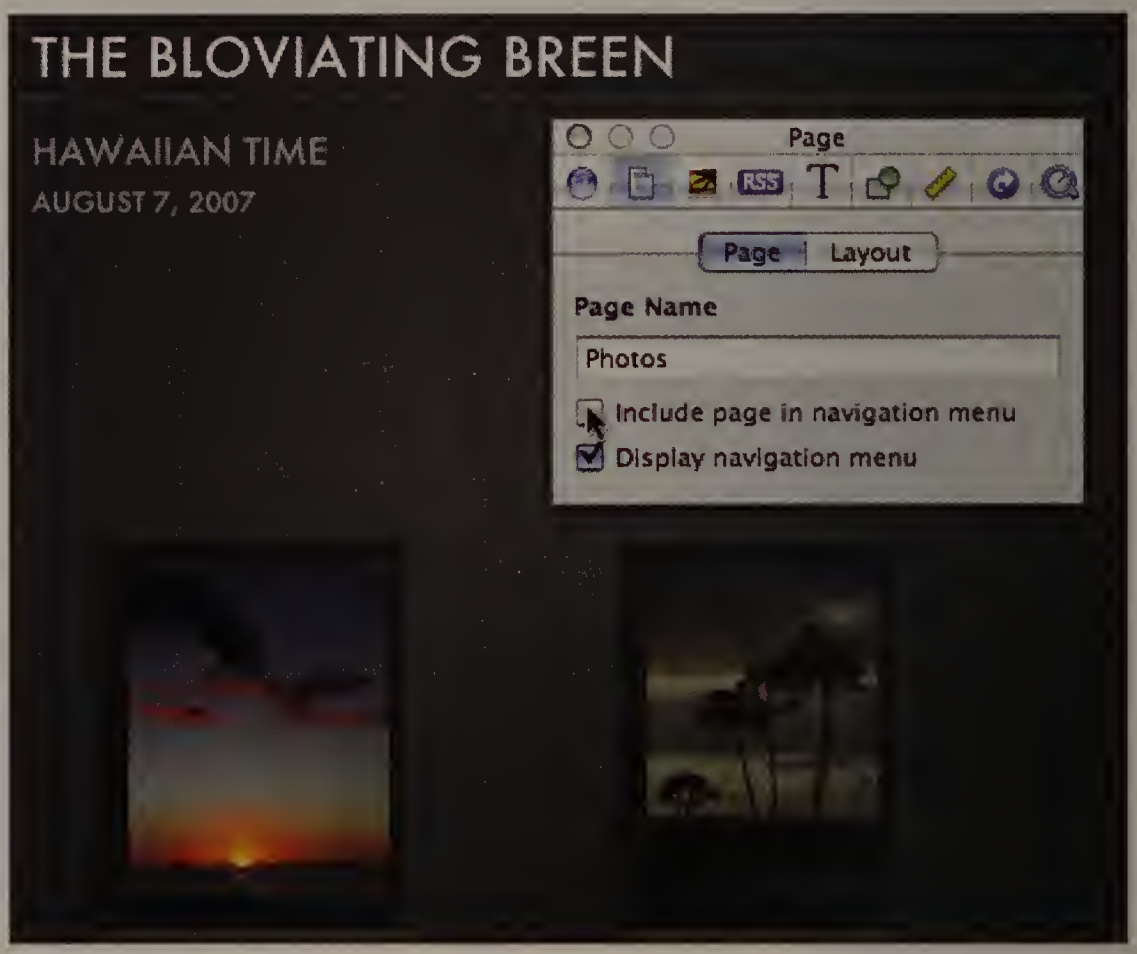
Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

Hiding iWeb Pages

Q: Every time I make a page in iWeb, a link to it appears in the navigation bar at the top of every page. I'd like to make some pages accessible *only* through links that I put on particular pages in the site. Is this possible?

Amal Chandaria

A: If you know where to look, it's easy to do this in Apple's iWeb '08 (part of the $79 iLife suite; ★★★½; macworld.com/3084) or the original iWeb. Select the page you want to hide in iWeb's Source list, choose View: Show Inspector, click on the Page tab in the resulting Inspector window, and deselect the Include Page In Navigation Menu option (see "Control iWeb Pages"). The link to that page (or set of pages, if you've added a template such as Blog) will disappear completely from the site's navigation bar.



Control iWeb Pages Make pages disappear from your iWeb site's navigation bar by disabling the Include Page In Navigation Menu option.

Copying Keychains

Q: I have a lot of passwords stored in my PowerBook's keychain. I want to put an exact copy of the keychain on my iBook, just in case my trusty PowerBook gives up the ghost, but Mac Help is vague about how to do this.

Jason M. Krellenstein

A: The first step to copying your keychain is finding it. Look inside *your user folder*/Library/Keychains. Login.keychain is the default user keychain file that OS X creates—the one you unlock with your login password. (If you've created a new keychain—Chris's keychain.keychain, for example—you'll find it here as well.)

Copying a keychain from one computer to another, however, can be problematic. If that other computer uses a different user name or password, it'll bombard you with password requests. Even with the same user name and password, you'll run into the occasional request for a password you *know* is in the keychain. For example, when I copied my keychain to another computer that used the same user name and password, Internet Connect asked me for my virtual private network (VPN) password—despite the fact that it never did that on the original computer.

If you subscribe to Apple's .Mac service ($99 per year; www.mac.com), you'll be happy to know you already have a way to avoid these problems. The service gives you the option to sync your keychain between your .Mac account and any Macs you sync with it (see "Keychain Syncing").

You'll find the option for syncing keychains—as well as bookmarks; calendars; contacts; Mail accounts; and Mail rules, signatures, and smart mailboxes—in the Sync tab of the .Mac preference pane. Select the Synchronize With .Mac option and then choose from the list.

Have a problem?
Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.

Easy Blind Carbon Copy Option for Mail

Q: I like to use the Addresses window in Apple's Mail to address my messages. But I don't see a button there that will let me put an address in the BCC field instead of the To field. What's the best way to do that?

Marty Grauer

A: The Addresses window (Window: Address Panel) in Apple's Mail for OS X 10.4 (Tiger) doesn't include a BCC option. Try a different approach: create a new e-mail message (⌘-N), choose View: BCC Address Field (⌘-option-B), open the Address Panel, and then *drag* the recipient names you want into the BCC field.

Safari's Regrettable Memory

Q: Safari does a reasonable job of trying to guess and fill in the Web address I am about to type. After a while, though, its memory becomes cluttered. When I type **g** to go to Google, for example, it guesses that I want to go to a genealogical Web page I visited once. How can I erase all the Web addresses, or at least the undesired ones, from Safari's brain?

Bill Zagotta

A: Apple's Safari 2.0.X doesn't provide one single command for getting rid of these memorized entries. They're concocted from Safari's bookmarks, cache, and history. You can get close by choosing Safari: Reset Safari, but doing this can be problematic. In the first place, it doesn't touch your bookmarks, so some of those entries will still appear. Secondly, it will clear more data than you probably want it to.

In addition to deleting the history and emptying the cache, it clears the Downloads window, removes all cookies, and gets rid of any user names and passwords you may have asked it to save. As a result, you might prefer to clear out Safari's memory piecemeal instead. Start by choosing Safari: Empty Cache. Then choose History: Clear History. Then go into the Bookmarks area and clear out bookmarks you don't want.

Alternatively, adopt some new habits. The first would be to type more than just that first letter **g** when you want to hop to Google.com. Try **go** and see if that works. Or bypass the whole autofill thing by clicking on the Address field, pressing the spacebar once, and starting to type. Autofill doesn't work if the first character is a space.

You can help prevent the addition of entries by choosing Safari: Private Browsing when you surf. With this option enabled, Safari won't cache the Web sites you visit or add them to its history; therefore they won't appear as Autofill entries.



Keychain Syncing Synchronizing your keychains with a .Mac account is the best way to get all your passwords onto all your Macs.

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** is the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, second edition (Peachpit Press, 2007), and *The iPhone Pocket Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2007).

Bugs & Fixes

BY TED LANDAU

iPhone Error 1603 When trying to restore your iPhone in Apple's iTunes, you may see the following error message: "The iPhone could not be restored. An unknown error occurred. Error 1603." To fix this problem, restart your Mac and try again. If that doesn't eliminate the error, connect your iPhone to a different USB port, ideally one that's connected to the Mac itself (rather than to a keyboard or USB hub).

Console Log Infinite Loop Launch Apple's Console utility (/Applications/Utilities) and check your Console log. Do you see the same message repeatedly—for example, "Looking for devices matching vendor ID=1193 and product ID=8717"? If so, this almost certainly means that a running program is searching for a hardware peripheral that's not connected to your Mac. It's a minor problem that could slow down your Mac's performance.

How does the offending software wind up on your Mac? In my case, it happened when I installed the software for my Canon scanner. It installed two items in my Login Items list, each necessary to enable the buttons on Canon scanners. However, only one was for my model; the other (named NO67U_ButtonManager) was for a different model. That was the file that was generating the errors. The solution is simple: go to your Accounts preference pane, click on the Login Items tab, and delete the unnecessary item from the list. Log out and log back in, and the Console errors should stop.

DMG File Mounting Glitch After you download a disk image (*.dmg*) file, it should either mount automatically or mount when you double-click on the file. If it doesn't, the Finder might be attempting, and failing, to open the *.dmg* file in a seemingly random application (in my case, Adobe GoLive CS).

To fix this, select the image file, hold down the option key, and select File: Always Open With. In the menu that appears, select DiskImageMounter. If this application is not in the menu, select Other and navigate to the /System/Library/CoreServices folder. You'll find the DiskImageMounter application there.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com) and the author of *Take Control of Troubleshooting Your iPhone* (TidBits Publishing, 2007). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

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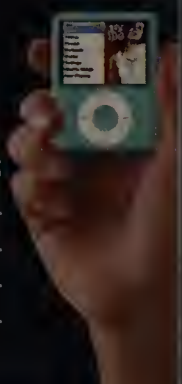
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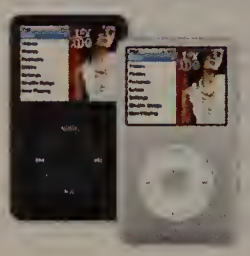
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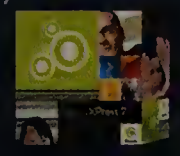
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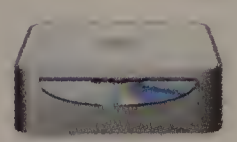
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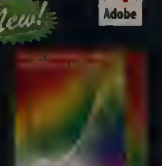
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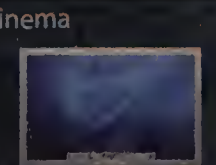
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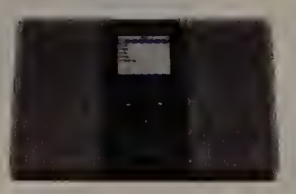
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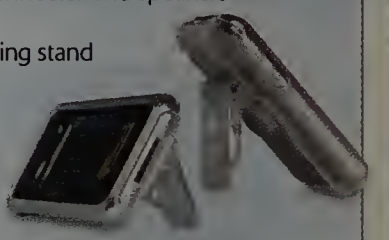
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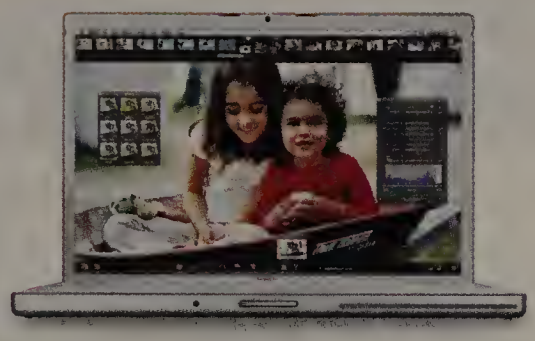
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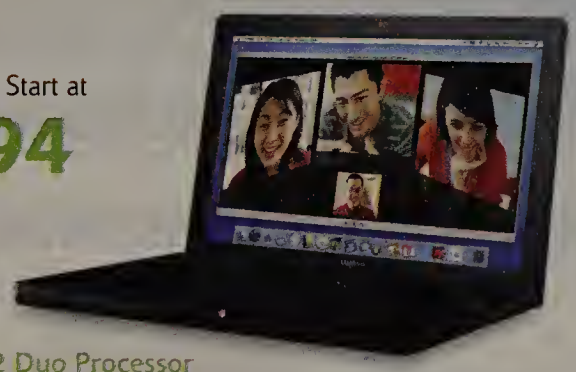
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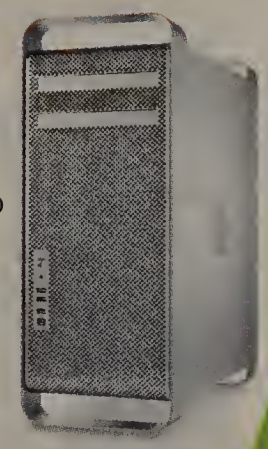
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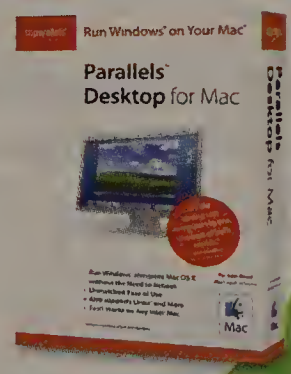
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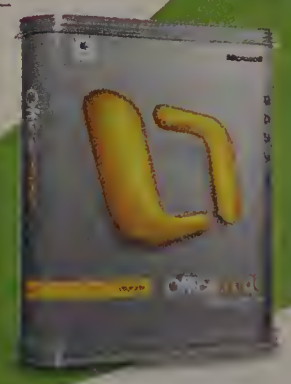
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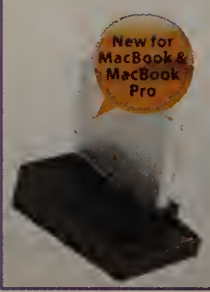


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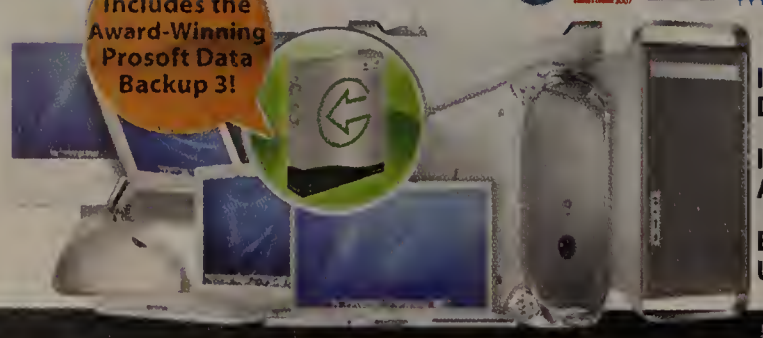


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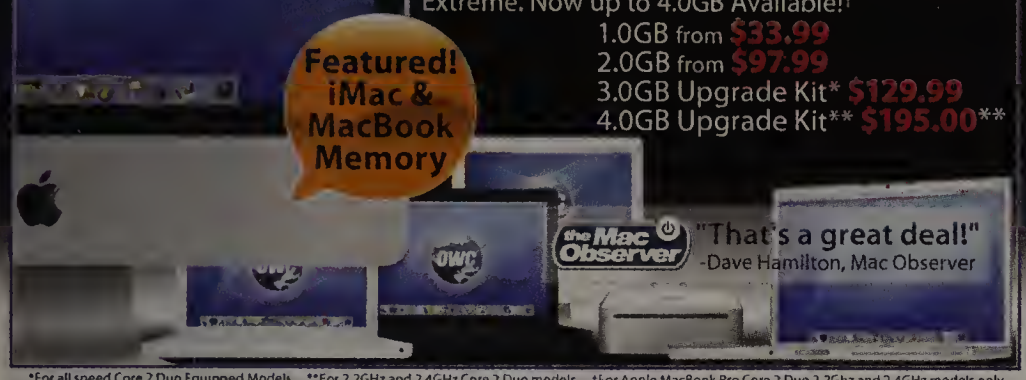
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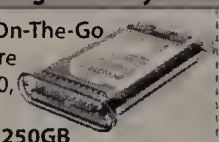
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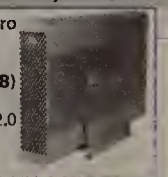
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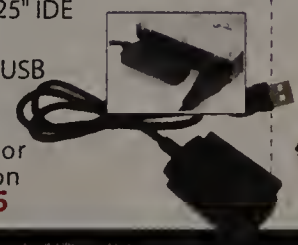
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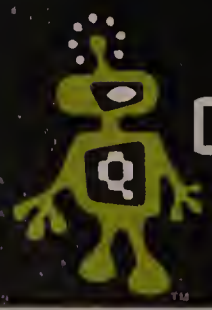
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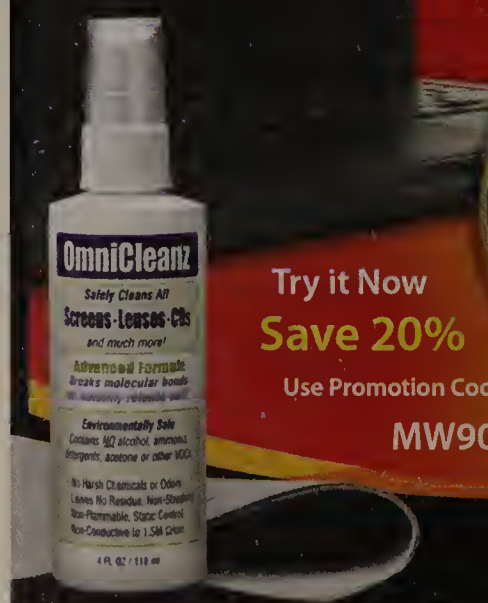
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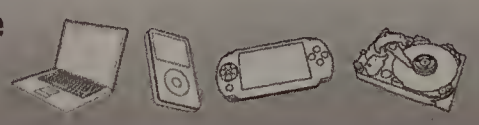
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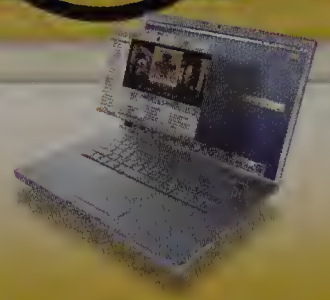
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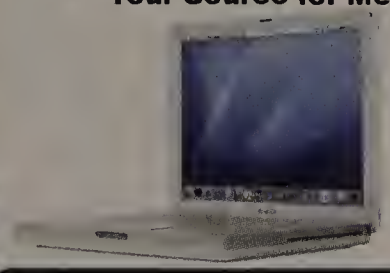
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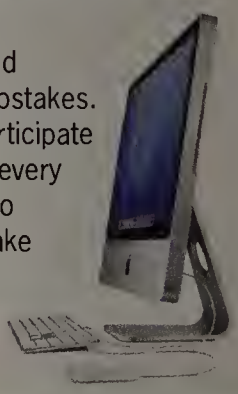
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 By John Moltz

2007: The Year in Review

A cracked view of the events of the past 12 months

As the year draws to a close, it's time to look back on all that's happened in the Apple world in 2007. This year will long be remembered as the year Apple took on a new industry, bolstered its flagship Mac line with new hardware and software, and saw its CEO brutally throttle a stagehand mid-keynote when his clicker stopped working.

What, you didn't hear about that last one? Then Apple's squad of public-relations fixers has done its job.

Steve Jobs Gets Around

The year 2007 kicked off, as it always does, with a highly anticipated Steve Jobs Macworld Expo keynote address. This year he devoted almost all of his time to a single announcement that would change Apple and the technology industry forever. I'm talking, of course, about the company's decision to open a second Apple Store in Milwaukee. He also introduced some sort of weirdo iPod that takes phone calls.

In February, Jobs began a new blog on Apple.com after his previous blog—an attempt to impersonate an editor at *Forbes* magazine—never really caught on. In his first post, "Thoughts on Music," Jobs exhorted the recording industry to drop digital rights management (DRM). The CEO followed up this treatise with "Thoughts on Sandwiches," in which he exhorted a local deli to go easier on the mayo, and "Thoughts on Where My Car Keys Are," in which he accused various underlings of moving his keys "just to mess with my head."

In a historic event in May, Jobs reunited onstage with Bill Gates at a charity event benefiting the employees of the *Wall Street Journal*. The two men thrilled the crowd with many of their classic comedy routines, including "The Dead Pixel Sketch," "Who's on Their Private Jet First," and "Pardon Me, Sir, Is This Your Operating System?"

The iPhone

In midyear, the nation's love affair with the iPhone hit its peak. Truly the "it" device of 2007—if not the decade, century, millennium, and indeed all of time and space—the iPhone finally arrived on June 29. Its arrival was greeted by a chorus of angels, followed by a solar eclipse, an overflight by a flock of doves, and a dire warning from a strange bearded man who kept mumbling something that sounded like "$200 price cut."

Remember the Mac?

In an alarming sign for Apple's most important non-iPhone, non-iPod product line, Mac fans felt a great disturbance in the Force on January 30, 2007, the day Microsoft released Windows Vista. Everyone was later relieved to find out that it was just the destruction of the planet Alderaan. As for Vista? Turns out it's not so good.

Within a few months of its announcement, the iPhone's hype had completely overshadowed the venerable Mac platform. The worst side effect: "I'm a Mac" actor Justin Long was digitally removed from his supporting role in the film *Live Free or Die Hard* just days before its release and replaced with a life-size wisecracking iPhone. The CGI iPhone immediately signed a three-picture deal with Paramount.

As for Windows Vista? Turns out it's not so good.



During the summer, Apple introduced the new Aluminum iMac, built entirely out of recycled Coke cans as proof of the company's renewed commitment to the environment. The iMac classic sells for $1,799, while the Diet iMac goes for $1,199.

The iPod Ecosystem

The release of the Apple TV, the companion product to the iPod and iTunes, was delayed by several weeks after Apple engineers promised to have a finished version of the product "just as soon as we're done watching our 'stories.'" An angry Steve Jobs canceled the entire Apple campus's DirecTV service in retaliation.

Finally, in September the iPod stole some of the attention back from the iPhone. At a special event, Steve Jobs announced a revamped iPod lineup, featuring a redesigned iPod nano and the all-new iPod touch. Jobs also announced the "iPod taste," which he said was essentially an iPod shuffle without the iPod functionality. Reporters were surprised, however, when upon closer inspection it turned out to be a Chiclet.

What Does It All Mean?

The year 2007 was monumental for Apple. A year of controversy, groundbreaking announcements, and prophecies fulfilled. Apple introduced new devices, redefined an industry, and drove its naysayers to apoplectic fits.

So it was pretty much like any other year. But cheer up. Maybe next year will be different.

John Moltz makes up facts on a regular basis as the editor of the Crazy Apple Rumors Site (crazyapplerumors.com).



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